

On June 29, 2020, the Oregon Supreme Court approved several temporary measures relating to the ability to practice law in Oregon, all resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Court's order is posted below. The measures include:

1. Granting a one-time "Emergency Diploma Privilege" to persons who timely submitted complete applications for the July 2020 Oregon bar examination and who either:
 - (a) graduated in 2020 from one of the three Oregon law schools; or
 - (b) graduated in 2020 from any other law school accredited by the American Bar Association that had a minimum of 86 percent of graduates pass a 2019 bar exam on their first attempt.

A "timely submitted complete application" includes applications received after Oregon hit seating capacity on May 15, so long as the application was postmarked on or before May 30, 2020 and deemed complete by the Bar upon receipt. The Qualified Law Schools are listed below.*

All other admission requirements continue to apply, including obtaining a passing score on the MPRE and establishing that the applicant has the requisite character and fitness to practice law.

2. Reducing Oregon's passing score for the July 2020 UBE bar exam from 274 to 266.
3. Authorizing an online-only Oregon bar exam to be conducted in October for a limited subset of applicants, outlined in the Court's order. A person who passes the October exam would qualify for admission in Oregon but would not qualify for UBE admission to other jurisdictions.

Any July 2020 Oregon Bar Examination applicant wishing to elect Diploma Privilege instead or opt into the October 2020 Oregon Bar Examination must do so on or before midnight, Pacific Time, July 6, 2020, by submitting the relevant form below. Elections are final when submitted. No applicant will be eligible for Diploma Privilege after July 6, 2020.

[2020 Admissions FAQs](#)

JULY 2020 BAR EXAM APPLICANTS:

Maximum Seating Capacity Reached

On May 11, 2020, the Oregon State Board of Bar Examiners (BBX) announced that it will continue with its plans for hosting a July Bar exam, but due to gathering restriction recommendations related to COVID-19, the Chair of the BBX set a maximum seating capacity for the exam. This capacity was achieved on May 15, 2020, and all applications received in the Admissions Department by that date have been reserved a seat and those applicants have been notified. Applicants who have not been reserved a seat have also been notified.

The BBX plans to host the July exam at four separate sites, testing approximately 100 to 150 applicants at each site. The sites have five to ten independent exam rooms, and each exam room of ten or more applicants has been assigned a staging area away from the building that houses the exam room. Pursuant to CJO 20-09, the Chair of the BBX has amended the bar exam application to require all applicants, for whom a seat is reserved, to sign a Code of Conduct Declaration and complete some additional steps remotely as part of an applicant's registration process. The amended application documents were sent by email to every applicant with a reserved seat on June 5, 2020. The Declaration and steps must be completed no later than Friday, June

19, 2020. If an applicant who has a reserved seat does not complete the additional required steps by June 19, 2020, regardless of the reason for missing this deadline, the applicant will lose the seat and be given a credit toward one of the next two bar exams offered by the Oregon State Bar.

If your application was received by the Admissions Department on or before May 15, 2020, and you have not received the June 5, 2020 email, please check your junk email folder for the relevant communication. The email address used for the mass email was admissions-announce@OregonStateBar.onmicrosoft.com. As all future mass emails will come from this address, you will need to remove any firewall or security blocks from this address. If you cannot find this email, then we may not have your correct email address in our database and you should contact the Admissions Department immediately via email to admissions@osbar.org, and let us know your correct email address. Again, if you fail to meet the June 19, 2020 deadline, you will lose your exam seat.

Applicants will be notified of their assigned exam site, staging area and seating assignments no later than July 7, 2020. We will make every effort to announce assignments before then, but this should allow ample time for applicants to make arrangements. The order in which the application was received and the home address listed in the application will be determining factors for the selection of an applicant's exam site. In assigning testing locations, the BBX will prioritize the seating at the Portland Red Lion hotel for applicants whose home address is located outside of Oregon.

It should be noted that other jurisdictions are requiring out-of-state applicants to self-quarantine in the examining state for at least two weeks before the July bar exam. While this is not a present requirement in Oregon, through consultations with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and other government agencies, this requirement may be added at some point in the future. Therefore, out-of-state bar exam applicants should consider traveling to Oregon no later than July 13, 2020.

In order to help out-of-state applicants with the costs related to any self-quarantine, the [Red Lion Hotel has agreed to give at least a 50% discount](#) from its normal July room rates. Any examinee reserving a room for two weeks between from July 13 to July 29 will receive a room rate of \$89 per night. This would cost the same as a non-examinee reserving a room from July 23 to July 29. We would like to thank the Red Lion for helping us in reducing this cost.

Applicants are instructed NOT to call the OSB admissions office or any BBX members for any reason. Emails may be sent to admissions@osbar.org, but please review all information posted on this web page or in our relevant FAQs before sending. Due to the large volume of emails and phone calls received, applicants should not expect an immediate response.

Please see the following links concerning bar admissions during the COVID-19 era: 1) BBX's Response to requests for diploma privilege and other COVID-19 bar exam issues; 2) the COVID-19 Admissions FAQs; 3) CJO #20-009 amending OSB Rules for Admission; and 4) the messages from admissions prior to May 15, 2020:

[BBX Response](#) [Chief Justice's Emergency Order](#)

[Prior Applicant Messages](#)

JULY 2020 BAR EXAM APPLICANTS:

On May 11, 2020, the Oregon State Board of Bar Examiners (BBX) announced that it will continue with its plans for hosting a July bar exam, but the Chair of the BBX set a maximum seating capacity for the July exam at 500 applicants.

We received our 500th application on May 15, 2020. **Do not call or email the Admissions Department to determine if your application is one of the 500.** As we confirm the qualifications and payments of the first 500 applicants, we may determine that some are not qualified or their payments may be denied for insufficient funds. In such event, we have held onto the excessive applications that were received on May 15, 2020 so that they can be processed and included in the 500 applications should there be space available. This is NOT a waiting list, but instead a way to establish that our exam population of 500 is filled with legitimate applications. We will notify these applicants if they are not included in the 500 as soon as all of the 500 applicants presently included in the testing population are confirmed, which should be sometime next week. Any applicant whose application is received after May 15, 2020, will be notified that their application has been rejected due to the seating limitation established by the Chair of the Board per CJO 20-09. For such applicants, their physical application, including any checks, will then be shredded and any online payment will be canceled/refunded/reversed.

The BBX plans to host the July exam at four separate sites, testing 100 to 150 applicants at each site. The sites will need four to six independent exam rooms, and one staging area for each exam room that is outside of any building. In order to accomplish this plan, the BBX is working with the Portland Red Lion Hotel and multiple other venues to establish the four July exam sites. We will announce the three other sites as soon as we have them under contract, which will hopefully be achieved before May 30, 2020. While the BBX presently plans to test 500 applicants at these various exam sites, this seating capacity may be reduced further depending on physical space limitations and guidance from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

Applicants will be notified of their assigned exam site by July 7, 2020. We will make every effort to announce assignments before then, but this should allow ample time for applicants to make arrangements. The order in which the application was received and the home address listed in the application will be determining factors for the selection of an applicant's exam site. In assigning testing locations, the BBX will prioritize the seating at the Portland Red Lion hotel for applicants whose home address is located outside of Oregon. It should be noted that other jurisdictions are requiring out-of-state applicants to self-quarantine in the examining state for at least two weeks before the July bar exam. While this is not a present requirement in Oregon, through consultations with OHA and other government agencies, this requirement may be added at some point in the future. Therefore, out-of-state bar exam applicants should consider traveling to Oregon no later than July 13, 2020.

While the BBX previously announced a willingness to host a fall bar exam, the demand for the July exam has exceeded the BBX's resources to host two exams under COVID-19 restrictions in 2020. Therefore, we will only host an exam in the fall if the July exam is postponed, or we have a significant number of applicants for the July exam who are unable to be tested due to space or regulatory restrictions. If that happens, we will offer a replacement exam in the fall (dates will be selected at the time we announce the cancellation or seating limitations). If an applicant is otherwise qualified to sit for the July exam, and is one of the 500 applicants accepted for testing in July but is then unable to do so because of a cancellation or seating restriction, then the BBX will give that applicant a full credit to sit at one of the next two bar exams offered in Oregon.

Applicants are instructed NOT to call the OSB admissions office or any BBX members for any reason. Emails may be sent to admissions@osbar.org, but please review all information posted on this web page or in our relevant FAQs before sending. Due to the large volume of emails and phone calls received, applicants should not expect an immediate response. Additionally, emails asking for updates about the status of a particular application, seating assignments or an exam update will not be answered. The answers to these questions will be provided in due course through our normal process.

Our offices are closed to the public. No applications will be accepted in person. We recommend not using any mailing service other than regular U.S. or international mail.

Send your application to:
Oregon State Board of Bar Examiners

P.O. Box 231935
Tigard, Oregon 97281-1935

Please see COVID-19 Admissions FAQs at the following link for additional answers to common questions; a link to CJO #20-009 concerning amending OSB Rules for Admission and the message from admissions prior to May 2020:

[COVID-19 Admissions FAQs](#)

[Chief Justice's Emergency Order](#)

[March 2020 Applicant Message](#)

On May 5, 2020, the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) announced that states administering the Uniform Bar Exam may proceed with the July bar exam. Because of this, the Oregon State Board of Bar Examiners (BBX) will continue with its plans for hosting a July Bar exam. However, because of social distancing requirements and public gathering restrictions, the BBX has made numerous changes to its plans for the July or any prospective fall exam.

The BBX now plans to host the July exam at four separate sites, testing 100 to 150 applicants at each site. The sites will need four to six independent exam rooms, and one staging area for each exam room that is outside of any building. In order to accomplish this plan, the BBX is working with the Portland Red Lion Hotel and multiple other venues to establish the four July exam sites. We will announce the three other sites as soon as we have them under contract, which will hopefully be achieved before May 30, 2020.

Under this new plan, the maximum capacity has been set at 500 applicants. This seating capacity may be reduced further depending on physical space limitations and guidance from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

Applicants will be seated on a first-come/first-serve basis, based on the time and date their application was received by the bar. As of May 11, 2020, we have received approximately 435 applications for the July exam. If an application is received after the maximum seating capacity is reached, the applicant will be notified that the exam is full and their application and has been rejected. The physical application, including any checks, will then be shredded and any online payment will be canceled.

Applicants will be notified of their assigned exam site by July 7, 2020. We will make every effort to announce assignments before then, but this should allow ample time for applicants to make arrangements. The order in which the application was received and the home address listed in the application will be determining factors for the selection of an applicant's exam site. In assigning testing locations, the BBX will prioritize the seating at the Portland Red Lion hotel for applicants whose home address is located outside of Oregon. It should be noted that other jurisdictions are requiring out-of-state applicants to self-quarantine in the examining state for two weeks before the July bar exam. While this is not a present requirement in Oregon, through consultations with OHA and other government agencies, this requirement may be added at some point in the future. Therefore, out-of-state bar exam applicants should consider traveling to Oregon no later than July 13, 2020.

While the BBX previously announced a willingness to host a fall bar exam, the demand for the July exam has exceeded the BBX's resources to host two exams under COVID-19 restrictions in 2020. Therefore, we will only host an exam in the fall if the July exam is postponed, or we have a significant number of applicants for the July exam who are unable to be tested due to space or regulatory restrictions. If that happens, we will offer a replacement exam in the fall (dates will be selected at the time we announce the cancellation or seating limitations). If an applicant is otherwise qualified to sit for the July exam, and is one of the 500 applicants accepted for testing in July but is then unable to do so because of a cancellation or seating restriction, then the BBX will give that applicant a full credit to sit for one of the next two bar exams offered in Oregon.

While the late filing deadline of May 30, 2020 will remain in effect, it is highly likely that we will reach our maximum seating capacity before then. For applicants who failed the February 2020 bar exam, their applications will still be considered timely if postmarked by May 30, 2020, but again, they must be received before we reach the maximum seating capacity. Applicants who are seeking testing accommodations must have their accommodation requests in by the timely filing deadline. To help with timely filings and comply with social distancing regulations, we have replaced any requirement for a notarized affidavit with a signed declaration and removed the requirement for fingerprint cards.

Applicants are instructed NOT to call the OSB admissions office or any BBX members for any reason. Emails may be sent to admissions@osbar.org, but please review all information posted on this web page or in our relevant FAQs before sending. Due to the large volume of emails and phone calls received, applicants should not expect an immediate response. Additionally, emails asking for updates about the status of a particular application, seating assignments or an exam update will not be

answered. The answers to these questions will be provided in due course through our normal process.

Our offices are closed to the public. No applications will be accepted in person. We recommend not using any mailing service other than regular U.S. or international mail.

Send your application to:
Oregon State Board of Bar Examiners
P.O. Box 231935
Tigard, Oregon 97281-1935

Please see COVID-19 Admissions FAQs at the following link for additional answers to common questions; a link to CJO #20-009 concerning amending OSB Rules for Admission and the message from admissions prior to May 2020:

Admissions Applicant Message for July 2020 Bar Exam prior to May 2020

The Oregon State Board of Bar Examiners (BBX) presently intends to host the July Bar Exam at the Portland Red Lion Hotel on July 28 & 29, 2020. A link to the application for this exam is posted below on this page.

Concerns about the COVID-19 virus might require either limited seating at, or cancellation of, the July Bar Exam. If seating at the July Bar Exam must be limited for any reason, applicants will be seated on a first-come/first-serve basis (based on the time and date the application is received by the bar).

Applicants are encouraged to get their applications in early.

As a Uniform Bar Exam State, we intend to follow the decision of the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) in determining whether to cancel the July exam. The NCBE will not announce whether the July exam will be cancelled until at least May 5, 2020. Here is a link to the NCBE's COVID-19 Announcements page: <http://www.ncbex.org/ncbe-covid-19-updates/>

Applicants who wish to take a Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) in 2020 are encouraged to apply for the Oregon July 2020 Bar Exam. If the NCBE cancels the July Bar Exam, we will offer a fall UBE exam in lieu of the July exam. If the NCBE offers additional UBE exams in 2020, Oregon will offer these exams as well. If seating must be limited for any reason at the fall or any subsequent UBE exams in 2020, seats will be offered first to those applicants who applied for the July exam, but who were unable to sit for the July exam for reasons beyond their control. If an applicant is otherwise qualified to sit for the July exam or subsequent exams, but is unable to do so because of a cancellation or seating restriction, then the BBX will give that applicant a full credit to sit for one of the next two bar exams offered in Oregon.

The timely filing deadline of April 15, 2020 and late filing deadline of May 30, 2020 will remain in effect. Applications must be postmarked by these dates and have the correct fees in order to be considered valid for the July exam. For applicants who failed the February 2020 bar exam, their applications will still be considered timely if postmarked by May 30, 2020. Applicants who are seeking testing accommodations must have their accommodation requests in by the timely filing deadline. To help with timely filings and comply with social distancing regulations, we have replaced any requirement for a notarized affidavit with a signed declaration and removed the requirement for fingerprint cards.

We realize that there is a lot of information in this announcement, and some info may give the reader concern about what the future holds. We hope that applicants will focus on the following three major takeaways: 1) It is our strong intention to hold at least one more exam this year; 2) If you apply for the July exam, we will do our best to get you tested; and 3) If we can't get you tested in July, your money is good for the next exam in which you can be seated.

Our offices are closed to the public. No applications will be accepted in person. We recommend not using any mailing service other than regular US or international mail.

Send your application to:
Oregon State Board of Bar Examiners
P.O. Box 231935
Tigard, Oregon 97281-193