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