

VERSION 1.1

SIDE-BAR FOR BAR EXAM TAKERS

AN OVERVIEW

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Traditional law schools typically leave much of the structure of how to learn up to the student. That is probably why there is a high drop-out rate of first year law students either out of frustration or failing grades. In our courses, we add structure to the chaos and guide the student through the experience which allow them to learn more. We show how to study and learn smarter, faster, and easier.

A little more specifically, traditionally law schools simply dump a ton of cases on the student and expect them to brief them (without knowing even how to brief a case), and those cases have a lot of legal terms unknown to most of The Side-Bar® Bar Review system is different and more comprehensive than any other bar review course on the market today. And as with the Side-Bar for law students, there are no lectures to attend or watch.

The course is divided into three sections which comprise the Bar Exam. These are: the essay questions, the multiple-choice MBE questions, and the performance exam.

MBE questions cover the following subjects: Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Real Property, and Torts.

The essay questions cover: Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Real Property, Torts, Wills & Trusts, Business Relationships (Corporations, Agency, Partnerships, and LLC's), Professional Responsibility, Remedies, and Community Property.

The California Bar Examiners give you a total of six essay questions divided into 2 three hour sessions, 200 MBE questions divided into 2 three hour sessions and two performance exams divided into 2 three hour sessions (note the Bar Examiners are considering reducing the performance exam to a single exam), spread over a 3-day period.

The Bar Review course begins with providing students comprehensive subject outlines of all the courses listed above. Unlike any other bar review course on the market today, we provide five separate outlines per course, as the subject/course outlines progressively get more condensed until students are using the fifth super condensed version of what we call "Bar Bones."

First are the initial level course outlines. These are comprehensive outlines which contain all the essentials you need to know, without any fluff. Students should read each initial level Outline at least 2 to 3 times before progressing to the four levels of the Compacted (or condensed) Outlines and the practice questions. The condensed outlines are not designed as "refresher" courses (as are the initial outlines), but are memory enhancers designed to trip key factors for quick recall needed during test taking conditions. Each outline covers the following subjects: Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts (with the UCC), Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Real Property, Torts, Wills & Trusts, Corporations, Professional Responsibility, Remedies, and Community Property.

As students are reviewing the course materials, instruction moves to strategies on how to approach, format, issue spot and analyze essay exam questions, separated by subject area. Students will discover that the Bar examiners have only so many ways (and/or formats) in which they can ask questions in each of these subject areas.

The Side-Bar® course covers these different formats. Of course, for the student to know and be able to recognize which format is being tested and then immediately be able to approach the question within that format is very helpful, not only as a confidence booster and time saver (as the student almost goes on auto-pilot), but the Bar examiners are looking for these specific formats in model answers.

Unfortunately, for the student test takers who put their heart and soul into crafting a well thought out and comprehensive answer to an essay question, outside of the formats the Bar examiners are used to seeing, often do not get a passing grade. This is because the Bar graders (who are temporary workers and paid per diem) do not allocate very much time in reading and reviewing the students' answers. (I even heard of Bar examiners taking the exams to a baseball game and grading them while watching the game.) Because of this, the Bar examiners are looking for their known formats which becomes the determining factor of who gets a passing grade. We provide all the formats and the different approaches per subject.

After learning the approaches and formats, students then begin practice essay questions. We provide 59 practice essay questions covering all subjects. For comparison review, sample answers are also provided.

Review of the condensed outlines continue during essay practice questions and then the course introduces the multiple-choice questions. As with the essay portion, the Side-Bar system provides a general approach and strategies for all questions and then specific strategies, tips and pointers targeting each course tested, before students begin answering questions. In fact, we provide about 170 specific tips proven to get you to the right answers. These approaches, tips and strategies need to be learned, which when deployed during the actual exam will boost the students' raw scores.

A few examples of general and course specific tips are:

- An answer can mischaracterize the facts by a blatant contradiction, an option which goes beyond the facts or the option assumes the fact is settled when it is not.
- Negligence is not a defense to strict liability or intentional torts so cross out those answers.
- In close call strict liability questions where one answer just says strict liability and the other answer discusses the defective part, pick the latter.
- In choosing between two answers that are close, choose the one which addresses the intent of the crime and usually if the answer includes an "if" modifier (like if the jury believes...) it is the correct one.
- Withdrawal is not a defense to conspiracy but is a defense to the target crime.

- Whenever a question talks about prompt shipment, under the UCC a contract will be formed even if the goods are nonconforming.
- If you have detrimental reliance before a revocation of an offer and then the offer is revoked, look for an answer which addresses the detrimental reliance and the foreseeability and pick that answer, if none then the offer was effectively revoked.
- In deed transfers, look for a physical transfer, so if there is no transfer, there is no delivery; to put the deed away somewhere in trust for someone is not valid delivery.
- In recording act questions look at the facts to see if one of the parties are outside the grantor/grantee index, then a subsequent buyer for value would have no notice, look at the answer that deals with the chain of title.
- Hearsay is never talking birds or machines.
- Business Records exception must be trustworthy, not only done in the course of business, so police records or a business that does accident reports aren't trustworthy because they are self-serving and done in preparation of litigation, therefore hearsay not admissible.
- Don't pick an answer for the 14th Amendment P&I clause unless you want the weakest argument.
- Answer which says "irrebuttable presumption" or "privilege not a right" cross out.
- An answer that says something is unconstitutional due to diversity of citizenship is wrong.

After review of the approaches and tips, students will be given sample practice questions (with answers and explanations). The MBE questions begin with straight forward easy questions to get the student oriented into taking these types of questions and then gradually become more difficult as practice progresses.

First, there are about 1350 questions separated by subject matter, and then there are about 450 questions of combined subjects, culminating in a timed exam of 200 questions. That is a total of about 2000 practice questions. Explanations to the answers are provided so that the student reviews those questions he/she answered incorrectly, which provides another memory enhancer. Once the Side-Bar method is learned and put into practice via the sample questions, the student should be highly competent and confident with answering MBE questions.

Lastly, for those in jurisdictions which give a performance exam, a review is given which includes how to approach a problem, together with practice exams and sample answers.

The California Baby Bar Review Course

This review course is set up just like the full review course except that the only subjects reviewed consist of Contracts (including the UCC), Torts and Criminal Law. These are the only subjects tested on the Baby Bar. Also, instead of five levels of course outlines, there are three levels ending with the Bar Bones. In addition, the MBE practice questions consist of 275 individual subjects, 275 mixed subjects and a 100-question simulated exam. That is a total of 1200 practice questions. Concerning essays, we provide 44 questions and answers covering the three subjects tested.