

How to Apply for the February 2027 Uniform Bar Exam

Please read all of the information in these instructions.

Application Dates	
Standard applicants	9:00AM ET October 1, 2026 – 11:59PM ET October 21, 2026* *Application will close earlier if seating cap is reached
Special re-taker applicants (<u>ONLY</u> those who sat for the July 2026 exam in any jurisdiction)	9:00AM ET October 30, 2026 – 11:59PM ET November 6, 2026* *Application will close earlier if seating cap is reached

Applications cannot be started until the application period opens.

Rules Regulating Admission to the Bar in the District of Columbia

You are responsible for reading and understanding the rules governing admission and unauthorized practice of law: [D.C. App. Rule 46](#) and [D.C App. Rule 49](#)

Application procedures have changed. Do not rely upon instructions from other websites and sources or from prior application periods to the District of Columbia. You are responsible for all information published on this website regarding the February 2027 bar exam. The volume of applications and the timeframe for exam preparation prohibit special exceptions for individuals who do not follow all instructions and deadlines. Your application is subject to administrative termination if you do not complete your application and pay fees according to the directions.

Application fees are not refundable nor transferable to a future exam.

Steps to Register and Apply for the Exam

For your application to be properly filed for the bar exam, you must complete the items below. Your application is not complete until you have followed all of the steps below. You must complete all of these steps by the **deadline before all seats are filled and no later than October 21, 2026, 11:59 PM ET**. There is no late filing period. There are NO EXCEPTIONS. A completed application must have all of the following:

1. **Create an account** – You must first create an account on <https://admissions.dcappeals.gov> and complete screening questions to determine your eligibility for the exam. All parts of the application are located on the Committee on Admissions' online application. **Do not complete an application on the NCBE website for this exam.**
2. **Complete screening questions** – Applicants are responsible for answering the screening questions accurately. Applicants who intend to apply for accommodations must answer “yes” in the screening questions as part of the accommodation request process.
3. **Complete Electronic Application** - Complete and submit the character & fitness application online. If you completed the character and fitness questionnaire **on or after April 1, 2023, for a prior application to the District of Columbia**, you will complete the abbreviated **Re-Application**.
4. **Complete the District of Columbia Authorization and Release Form (A&R)** - Print the A&R form and sign it in the presence of a notary. Forms notarized digitally are acceptable. Scan and save the notarized A&R as a PDF document. The properly signed and notarized **A&R PDF must be uploaded to your account by 11:59 PM ET on October 21, 2026**. **Your A&R must be dated within 30 days of the date you submit your application.**
5. **Upload photo** - A photo is required for all exam applications. Photos must meet certain requirements. A selfie can usually meet these requirements. A new photo is required each time you apply for a bar exam. Please do not submit a picture of your driver's license or any other ID. Your photo must meet the following requirements:
 - ✓ Taken within the past 6 months and reflect your current appearance.
 - ✓ Color photo.
 - ✓ **Individual photo** (no one else may be in the photo)
 - ✓ Photo should only include your head and shoulders.
 - ✓ Full face view, directly facing the camera.
 - ✓ Appropriate clothing (business casual)
 - ✓ No hat or head covering unless worn for religious purposes.
 - ✓ Glasses are permitted; however, a glare or light reflection in the lenses of glasses in the photo is not acceptable (glare can be avoided with a slight downward tilt of the glasses or by turning off the flash).
 - ✓ Photo file type must be a .png, .jpg., or .jpeg
6. **Complete and upload MPRE Declaration** – Complete the declaration even if you have not yet taken the MPRE. **An MPRE score is not required to sit for the exam, but a minimum score of 75 is required for admission.** You must request that your MPRE

score be reported to the District of Columbia or upload an unofficial score report with your application.

7. **Upload supplemental forms** - All bar exam applicants with a JD from an ABA Approved law school must upload a Declaration of Graduation/Anticipated Graduation Form. If you have previously applied, you may re-upload the form you used for the prior exam.

All bar exam applicants who *do not* have a JD from an ABA approved law school must upload the following:

- ✓ Declaration of Graduation From a Non-ABA approved law school
- ✓ Declaration of Completion/Anticipated Completion of 26 Credit Hours at an ABA Approved Law School (must be completed before the exam)
- ✓ Copy of Diploma from non-ABA approved Law School
- ✓ Copy of Official Transcripts from non- ABA approved law school
- ✓ Copy of Official Transcripts from ABA approved law school
- ✓ Copy of course descriptions from ABA approved law school

8. **Upload accommodations request, if applicable** – Complete the accommodations request form or follow the alternative process if you were previously granted accommodations in DC. **Please note that you must indicate “yes” in the screening questions if you intend to apply for accommodations, even if they were previously granted. You may upload supporting documentation up until **October 21, 2026, 11:59PM Eastern Time**.** Additional information about the accommodations process can be found under the “Accommodations” header later in this document.
9. **Upload additional documentation, if applicable** – The documents that applicants need from third parties or other sources will be determined by your responses to specific questions. Applicants who reply “yes” to questions regarding the following will need to provide additional documentation: arrests, civil litigation, academic disciplinary action, unauthorized practice of law, law school discipline, college/university discipline, military service, alcohol or drug related traffic violation and tax debt.

The NCBE analyst performing the background investigation may ask for other information after your application is submitted.

10. **Submit the application and pay the application fee** - After completing all steps, the submit button will appear and you will be prompted to pay the filing fee, either by credit card, debit card, or e-check. We do not accept any other form of payment.
11. **Pay NCBE Investigation Fee** – Upon receipt of an invoice requesting payment, you will pay the fee for the background investigation directly to NCBE. This does not apply if you are re-applying and meet the criteria related to a prior application submitted on or after April 1, 2023.

Applications are reviewed for completeness by admission staff on a rolling basis. Reviewed and complete applicants will receive a “Bar Application Accepted” notice via their portal. If you have not received an update by December 14, 2026, please send a message in the portal.

NCBE Background Investigation

Within 7-10 business days after filing your application with the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, you will receive an email from the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) with instructions on how to submit payment for the background investigation. Payment for the background investigation is required for your application to be complete. As previously stated, this **payment is due no later than December 14, 2026.**

If you previously paid the background investigation fee you will not pay the fee again, **as long as the prior application was submitted or after April 1, 2023.**

As indicated above, the background investigation fee must be **paid to NCBE no later than December 14, 2026.** Please note that this is a deadline imposed by the District of Columbia for the purposes of exam registration. **The later deadline given by NCBE does not apply if you wish to sit for the February 2027 exam.**

Applicants with law degrees from Non-ABA Approved Law Schools

If you did not obtain a JD or LLB from an ABA approved law school, please also read the [Guidance](#) Regarding 26 ABA Credit hour Requirement for Graduates of non-ABA Approved Law Schools. Pursuant to Rule 46(c)(4), the Committee on Admissions will audit credits from an ABA approved law school transcript to determine if “all such 26 credit hours [have been] earned in courses of study, each of which is substantially concentrated on a single subject tested on the Uniform Bar Examination.”

DC requires that LLB or non-ABA approved JD transcripts demonstrate that the applicant completed a degree that is substantially equivalent to a Juris Doctor degree that would be awarded by a law school approved by the ABA. This requirement may differ from the non-ABA approved LLB and JD degree requirements.

Accommodations

To apply for accommodations, you will complete the questions online within the application and upload a completed accommodations request form. You must also provide medical documentation that provides proof of your disability and documentation of prior accommodations. Please see the [Medical Guidelines](#) for guidance on your supplementary medical documentation. Applicants who do not submit any supporting documentation (e.g. diagnostic testing, transcripts, proof of prior accommodation grants, etc.) will be denied. **If you**

obtain additional medical documentation after you submit your application, you may upload this documentation up until October 21, 2026.

Applicants who have **previously been granted accommodations for a DC bar exam** and who do not wish to request different accommodations **can upload their request form and a copy of their prior DC bar exam accommodations grant letter**. If you have previously been granted accommodations, please do not apply for a change unless you have **new** supporting medical documentation.

Applicants who are breastfeeding and/or pregnant may apply for a non-ADA courtesy schedule when they submit their application by selecting “yes” to the screening question regarding accommodations.

Emergency Accommodations *may* be granted where an applicant experiences circumstances that create a need for accommodations after the deadline. Emergency Accommodations will **only be granted when all of the following conditions are met:**

1. The impairment occurred after the deadline for the submission of accommodation requests.
2. The accommodation does not impose an undue burden on the Committee on Admissions.
3. The applicant demonstrates a disability within the meaning of the ADA.
4. The accommodation does not fundamentally alter the nature of the bar examination
5. The accommodation does not jeopardize the security of the exam

For Emergency Accommodations requests, send an email with the details of the request and supporting documentation to DCAccommodations@dcappeals.gov. A denial of an Emergency Accommodation is not appealable.

Applicants can expect a response to their accommodations request via their admissions portal by **January 8, 2027.** This does not apply for emergency requests and appeals.

Please note that accommodation requests may be granted fully or in part. Alternate accommodations may also be granted. Appeals can be made up to ten days after an accommodation grant is denied in full or in part. **Appeals must contain new information with supporting documentation. An appeal may not include requests that were not in the original accommodation request.** A link to the appeal form will be included in all decision letters that do not fully grant the requested accommodations.

Laptop Registration

Applicants must pay the software licensing fee of \$150 and register their laptops directly with the software vendor, ILG360. **The registration period is January 20, 2027 to January 29, 2027.**

Electronic Communications

General announcements are made on the Committee on Admissions' website. You are expected to regularly visit the [Committee on Admissions \("COA"\) website](#) to review the announcements and information posted there. You must also check your applicant portal for communications. Please use an e-mail address that you can access even after graduation from law school. You are required to maintain a current e-mail address and mailing address on your personal COA Registration Account, and to regularly read all mail from this office, whether sent electronically or by postal service. It is your responsibility to ensure that e-mails from COA are not filtered as spam and to add @dccourts.gov and @dcapeals.gov to your e-mail address book.

Exam Day Policy

Exam day instructions and seating assignments will be released via the application portal prior to the exam.

The bag policy has changed for the February 2027 exam. **Only clear bags will be allowed at all exam sites.** Details of allowed items will be provided in the exam day instructions.

Bar Exam Content Schedule

February 2027 Uniform Bar Exam Schedules

February 2027 Exam Schedule for Standard Administration

Date / Session (Am or PM)	Length of Session	Exam Content
February 23 AM	3 hours	MPT 1 & 2
February 23 PM	3 hours	MEE 1 – 6
February 24 AM	3 hours	MBE 1 – 100
February 24 PM	3 hours	MBE 101-200

February 2027 Exam Schedule for Non-Standard Administration

Courtesy Accommodation with no additional time

Date / Session (Am or PM)	Sessions	Exam Content
February 23 AM	90 min. /break 30 min./90 min.	MPT 1 / break/ MPT 2
February 23 PM	90 min. /break 30 min./90 min.	MEE 1 – 3 / Break/ MEE 4-6
February 24 AM	90 min. /break 30 min./90 min.	MBE 1 – 50/ Break/ MBE 51-100
February 24 PM	90 min. /break 30 min./90 min.	MBE 101-150/ Break/ MBE 151-200

**February 2027 Exam Schedule for Non-Standard Administration
(Additional Time- 25%)**

Date / Session (Am or PM)	Length of Session	Exam Content
February 23	3.75	MEE 1-6
February 24 AM	3.75	MBE 1-100
February 24 PM	113 minutes	MPT
February 25 AM	3.75 hours	MBE 101-200
February 25 PM	113 minutes	MPT

**February 2027 Exam Schedule for Non-Standard Administration
Additional Time – 50%**

Date / Session (Am or PM)	Length of Session	Exam Content
February 23 AM	2.25 hours	MPT
February 23 PM	4.5 hours	MEE 1-6
February 24 AM	4.5 hours	MBE 1-100
February 24 PM	2.25 hours	MPT
February 25 AM	4.5 hours	MBE 101-200

**February 2027 Exam Schedule for Non-Standard Administration
Additional Time – 100%**

Date / Session (Am or PM)	Length of Session	Exam Content
February 23 AM	3 hours	MEE 1-3
February 23 PM	3 hours	MEE 4-6
February 24 AM	3 hours	MBE 1 – 50
February 24 PM	3 hours	MBE 51-100
February 25 AM	3 hours	MBE 101 – 150
February 25 PM	3 hours	MBE 151-200
February 26 AM	3 hours	MPT
February 26 PM	3 hours	MPT

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