

U.S. Bar Exam Digest
for international lawyers,
law graduates
and LL.M. candidates



We're here for you every step of The BARBRI Way

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Trust our proven bar prep process to pass a U.S. state bar exam

Congratulations! You have taken a major step toward your global legal career. In today's increasingly globalized world, demand continues to grow for those who understand the workings and complexities of the law of more than one jurisdiction.

Most foreign attorneys sit for the New York or the California Bar Examination, so those are the bar exams overviewed in this guide.

New York and California operate a relatively open policy in permitting foreign law graduates or lawyers to sit their bar examinations and they do not impose restrictions to admission on grounds of nationality or residence.

Graduates with a three- or four-year common law degree^[1] may be immediately eligible to apply to sit for the New York Bar Exam. Qualified lawyers in any country, including those who have a civil law background or are qualified in their home jurisdiction through an alternative pathway, can apply to take the California Bar Exam.

While we strive to provide detailed information in this guide, we encourage candidates to speak with a BARBRI team member prior to enrollment so we can ensure that you understand how to establish your eligibility, and that you are able to study for and sit the bar examination.

BARBRI is here to guide you through every step of your U.S. bar admissions journey. We've perfected The BARBRI Way over 50+ years. You can trust our proven process and unparalleled expertise in preparing candidates to qualify as a U.S. lawyer. In fact, we've helped over 1.3 million candidates pass a U.S. bar exam. Now, we are here for you.

^[1] which must be of substantial and durational equivalence to an American law degree. Please contact us for advice on your eligibility.



To anyone with the goal of passing a U.S. bar exam and becoming U.S. qualified – go with BARBRI. Make the time, do the work, apply the techniques and you'll pass. Today, I am successfully dual-qualified as a New York attorney and Solicitor Advocate.

Amanda Lee, Solicitor Advocate, Seymours, London

California Bar Exam eligibility

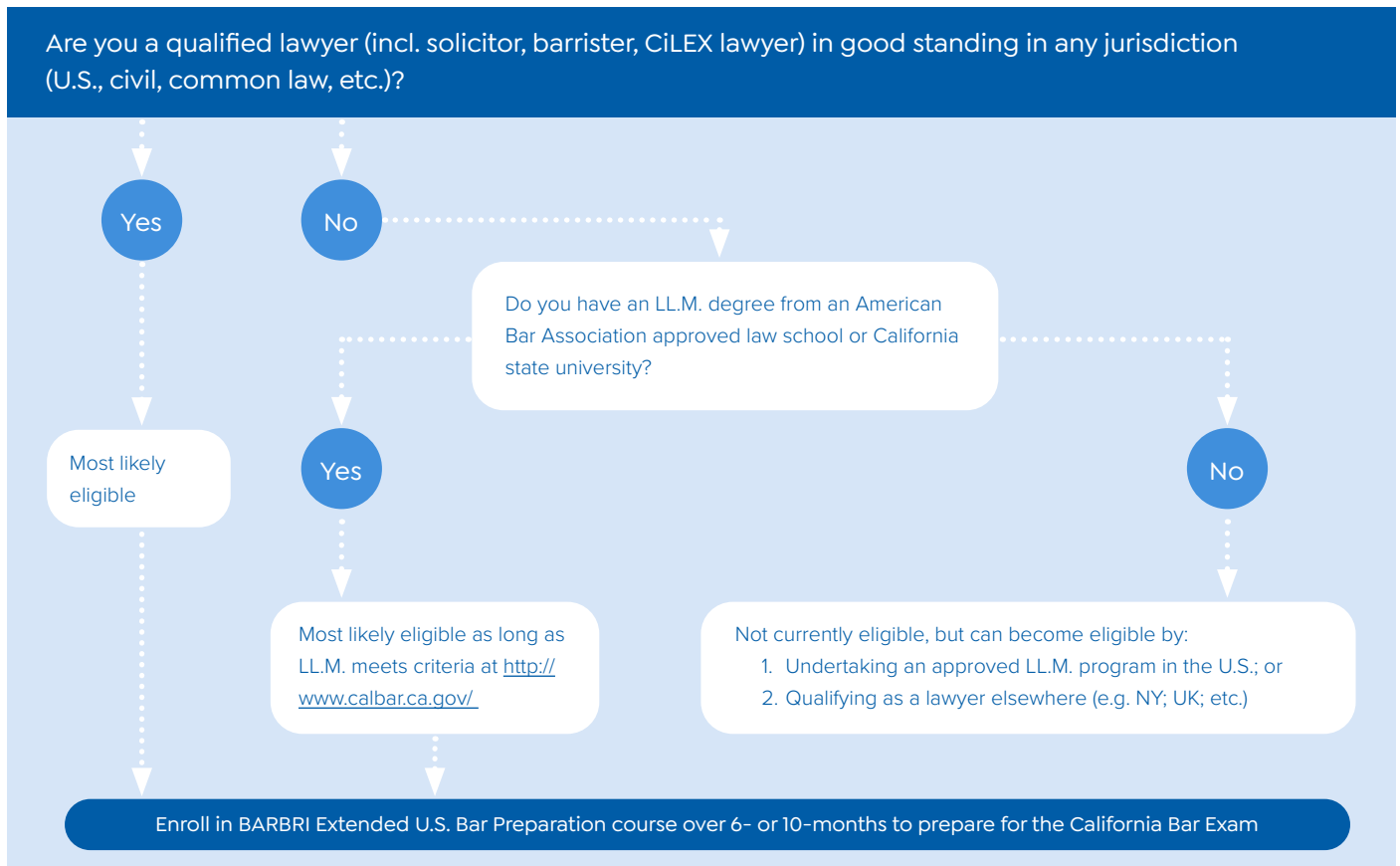
If you are a qualified lawyer in any country, you can sit for the California Bar Exam. You will still have other requirements to satisfy, but your foreign license is a shortcut in the application process. If you have a law degree but are not licensed, you may qualify to sit for the bar if you complete an LL.M. with at least 20 credits at an ABA or California accredited school.

As part of those 20 credits, you must take a Professional Responsibility class that covers the ABA Model Rules of Profession Conduct and leading federal and state case law on the subject, and at least 3 classes must be in subjects that appear on the bar exam. It's also possible to take the bar exam if you took law classes but do not have a first degree in law. This is not a common path for foreign-educated students.

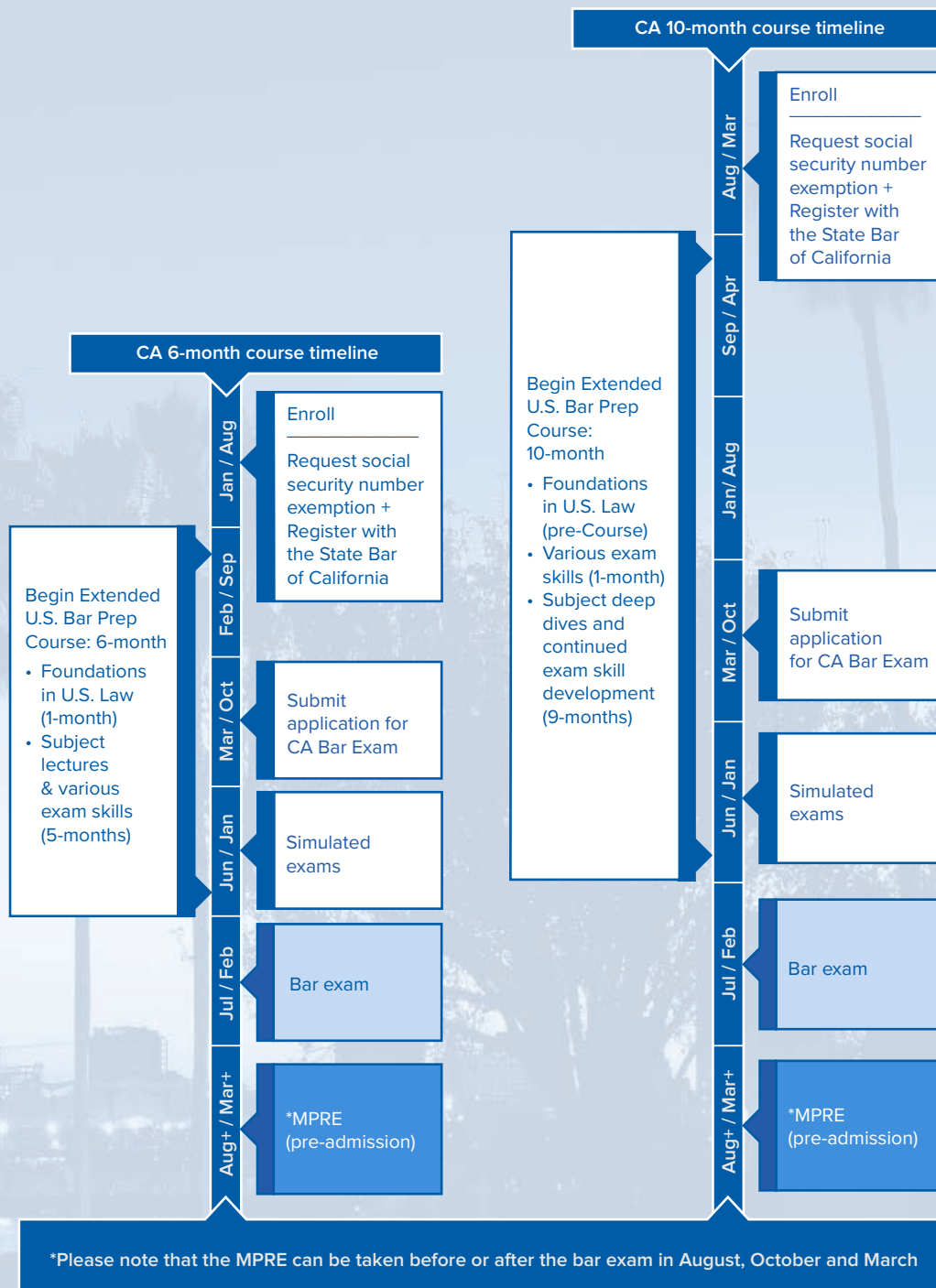
You will be asked to provide a social security number when applying for the California Bar Exam. If you do not have a U.S. social security number, you will simply need to complete and submit a social security exemption form when submitting your bar exam registration forms.

To learn more about the California Bar Examination and the eligibility requirements for foreign-trained attorneys, please visit the official website of the State Bar of California www.calbar.ca.gov/Admissions/Requirements/Education/Legal-Education/Foreign-Education.

We encourage candidates to speak to a BARBRI team member prior to enrollment so that we can ensure you understand the steps required to establish your eligibility and that you are available to study and sit for the bar examination. Always confirm eligibility with the applicable board of law examiners before enrolling in a U.S. bar preparation course.



Preparing for the California Bar Exam: key stages



The California Bar Exam format & details

Bar exam: last Tuesday and Wednesday of February and July

The California Bar Exam is a two-day exam.

Day 1: Three 60-minute essay questions (in the a.m.). Two 60-minute essay questions and one 90-minute Performance Test (in the p.m.).

Day 2: Multistate Bar Exam (MBE), a 200-question, multiple-choice exam (100 questions in the a.m., 100 questions in the p.m.).

Subjects tested

MBE Subjects

Constitutional Law, Contracts/Sales, Criminal Law/Procedure, Evidence, Federal Civil Procedure, Real Property, Torts.

California Essay Subjects

Business Associations (Agency and Partnership, Corporations, and LLC), CA Civil Procedure, CA Community Property, CA Evidence, CA Professional Responsibility, Remedies, Trusts, CA Wills and Succession plus all MBE subjects.

California performance test

"Closed universe" practical questions using instructions, factual data, cases, statutes and other reference material supplied by examiners.

MPRE

A scaled score of 86 on the MPRE is required for admission. Visit www.ncbex.org for information on MPRE dates, filing deadlines and application fees.

Filing deadlines and fees

To be timely, applications must be filed in the month of October for the February exam and in the month of March for the July exam. Visit www.calbar.ca.gov/Admissions/Examinations/Dates-Deadlines for timely and final filing deadlines.

Attorney applicant eligibility fee: \$214

Law student/general applicant eligibility fee: \$119

Exam fee: \$677

Attorney exam fee: \$983

Application For determination of moral character: \$551

Attorney applicant

This applies to candidates who are licensed to practice law in another U.S. state or jurisdiction.

Law student / general applicant

This applies to applicants who are not qualified attorneys but satisfy the educational requirements as recognized by California (1-year LL.M. or J.D. from an ABA law school in the U.S.).

Late filing exam fees:

After initial deadline: +\$50

After first late fee period expires: +\$250

Scoring

The MBE score is 50% of the total score, while the written portion accounts for the other 50%. A passing score of 1,390 on a 2,000 point scale is required based on the combined scores of the California Performance Test, the essay questions, and the MBE.

Reciprocity

Acceptance of MBE score

California does not accept an MBE score from an exam taken in another jurisdiction.

Admission on motion

California does not provide for admission on motion. Examination is required of all applicants. Attorneys who have been licensed in another jurisdiction for four years may be eligible to sit for the attorney exam (written exam only).

The State Bar of CA Office of Admissions

Los Angeles: (213) 765-1500

San Francisco (main office): (415) 538-2300

Web: www.calbar.ca.gov/Admissions

New York Bar Exam eligibility

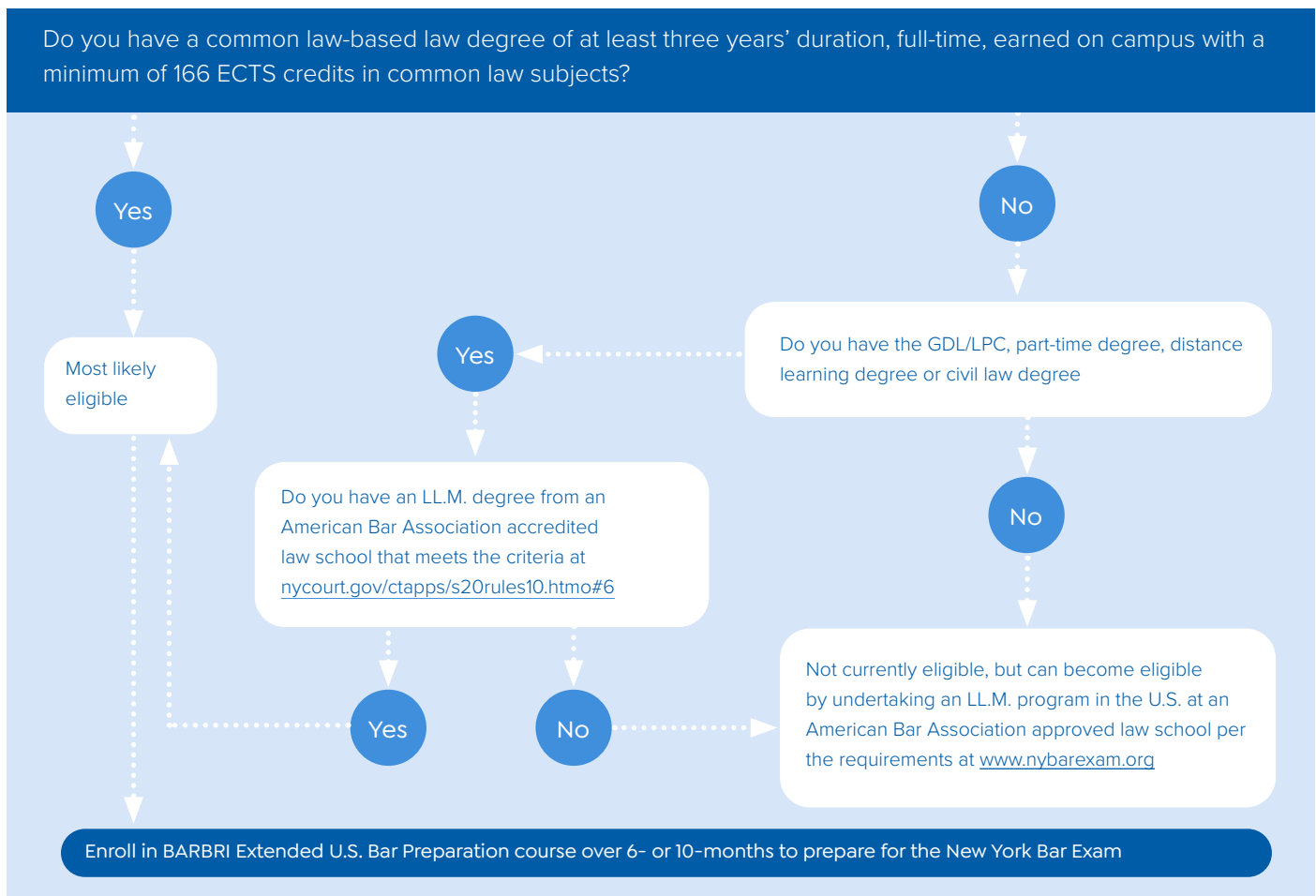
In general, law graduates or foreign-trained attorneys with an undergraduate law degree from most common law countries may take the bar examination in New York, depending on the length and nature of their legal education, without completing additional coursework at a U.S. law school.

Foreign-trained attorneys from civil law jurisdictions, or those from common law countries with degrees that do not meet the educational requirements, must “cure” the deficiency in their law degree because it does not meet the substantial equivalence and duration requirements to be considered equivalent to the legal education provided by an ABA-approved law school in the U.S.

The “cure” provision in Rule 520.6 requires these applicants to complete an LL.M. program at a U.S. ABA-accredited law school and also requires that students take certain courses in their LL.M. degree.

To learn more about the New York Bar Examination and the eligibility requirements for foreign-trained attorneys, please visit the official website of the New York Board of Law Examiners of the State of New York (BOLE): www.nybarexam.org/thebar/thebar.htm. Also, make sure to review the “Foreign Legal Education” section of the NY BOLE website, on the menu on the homepage: www.nybarexam.org/Foreign/ForeignLegalEducation.htm.

We encourage candidates to speak to a BARBRI team member prior to enrollment so that we can ensure you understand the steps required to establish your eligibility and that you are available to study and sit for the bar examination. Always confirm eligibility with the applicable board of law examiners before enrolling in a U.S. bar preparation course.



Foreign evaluation of credentials

You will need to complete the “Online Request for Foreign Evaluation of Academic Credentials” and arrange for the New York State Board of Law Examiners (BOLE) to receive the proper supporting documents. This evaluation must be completed to obtain a decision on your eligibility to take the NY Bar Exam.

EXAM	DOCUMENTS	DEADLINE
February	Online foreign evaluation and all required foreign documentation	May 1 of the year preceding the exam you wish to sit
July	Online foreign evaluation and all required foreign documentation	October 1 of the year preceding the exam you wish to sit

Keep in mind that the BOLE will not consider your request for an evaluation to be “complete” until it receives all supporting documents and will not review your application until it is complete. If you do not submit all your supporting documentation by the deadline, you face a substantial likelihood that BOLE will not act on your eligibility in time for you to apply for the examination.

The documents required in support of your request for an evaluation are outlined by the BOLE on their website. Carefully read through the document descriptions and pay attention to rules related to providing English translations and submitting documents directly from the issuing institutions and/or government agencies in your home country. These documents take time to gather — you must start early in order to ensure you can sit for the exam you wish to take.



Every day, I am working with smart people who are deeply interested and engaged in their work. Having passed the New York Bar Exam and being qualified as a U.S. attorney is certainly helpful.

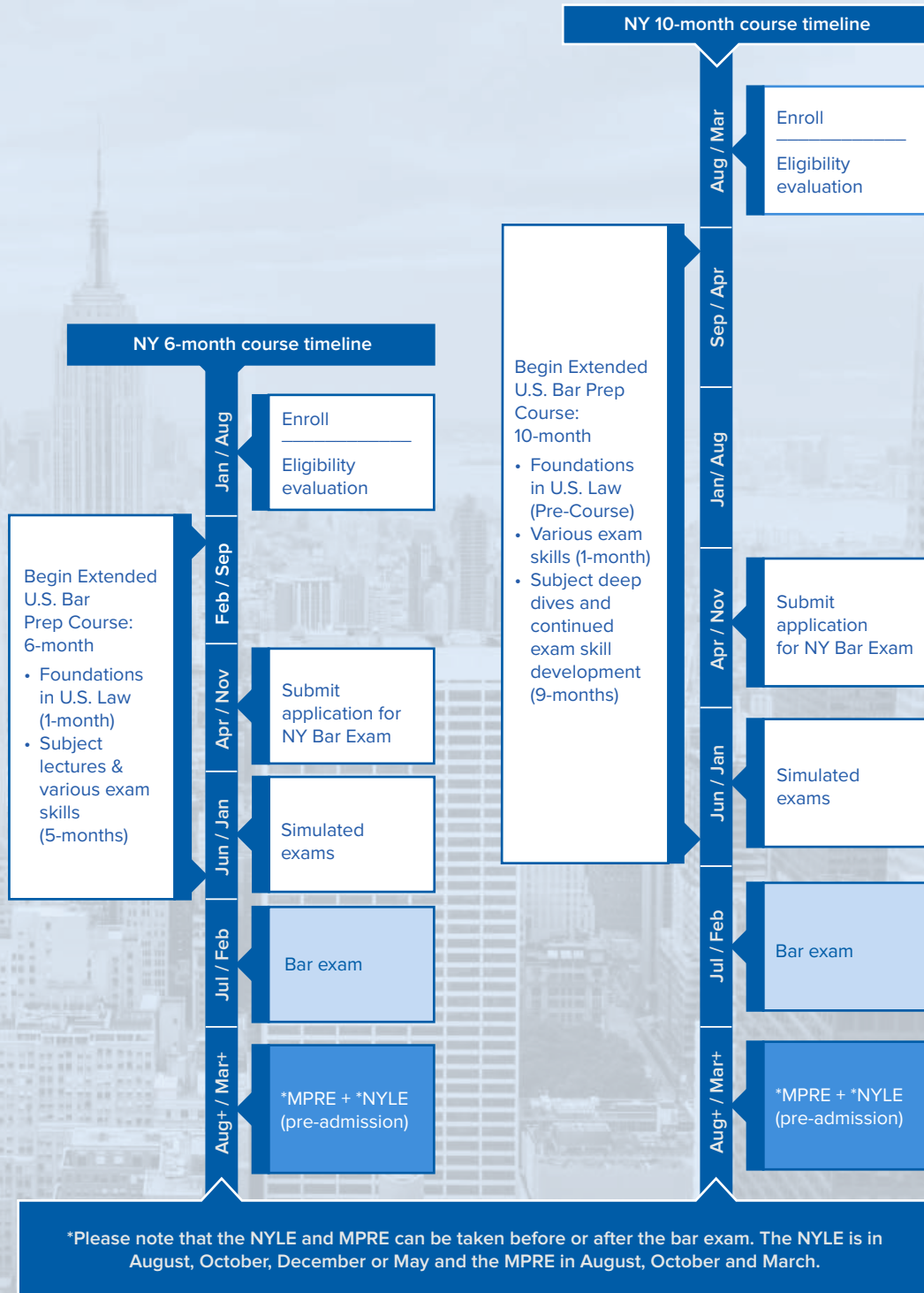
Hannah McCarthy, Attorney & Associate, Kirkland & Ellis



I took the BARBRI Extended U.S. Bar Prep course to study for the California Bar Exam in order to enhance my C.V. and open opportunities for me in the global legal market. BARBRI engaged with me and gave me great help in both signing up to the course and applying for the bar exams in California. I found the structure of the BARBRI bar course and the materials invaluable in my preparation for the bar exams and the bar ethics test. On the basis of the extensive materials provided (both online and in hard copy), the crucial bar simulation exercises, the dedication of the team, and the administrative course support, I would definitely recommend the BARBRI Extended U.S. Bar Prep course for UK-based students looking to take the California Bar Exam.

Michael Bull, Ediscovery Contract Lawyer

Preparing for the New York Bar Exam: key stages



The New York Bar Exam format & details

Bar exam: last Tuesday and Wednesday of February and July

The New York Bar Exam is a two-day Uniform Bar Exam (UBE).

Day 1: Two 90-minute Multistate Performance Test questions (MPT in the a.m.) and six 30-minute Multistate Essay Exam questions (MEE in the p.m.).

Day 2: Multistate Bar Exam (MBE), a 200-question, multiple-choice exam (100 questions in the a.m., 100 questions in the p.m.).

Subjects tested

MBE subjects

Constitutional Law, Contracts/Sales, Criminal Law/Procedure, Evidence, Federal Civil Procedure, Real Property, Torts.

MEE subjects

Business Associations (Agency and Partnership; Corporations and Limited Liability Companies), Conflict of Laws, Family Law, Trusts and Estates (Decedents' Estates; Trusts and Future Interests), Article 9 (Secured Transactions) of the Uniform Commercial Code plus all MBE subjects.

Multistate Performance Test

"Closed universe" practical questions using instructions, factual data, cases, statutes and other reference material supplied by examiners.

MPRE

Applicant must pass the MPRE within three years before or after passing the New York Bar Exam as measured from the date the applicant sat for each examination. A minimum scaled score of 85 is required. Visit www.ncbex.org for information on MPRE dates, filing deadlines and application fees.

Filing deadlines and fees

Apply online at nybarexam.org between November 1 and November 30 for the February exam and between April 1 and April 30 for the July exam.

Bar exam fee: \$750 for foreign-trained applicants

Laptop fee: \$100

New York Law Course (NYLC) fee: none

New York Law Exam (NYLE) fee: \$27 payable to Examssoft

Scoring

The MEE and MPT scores are scaled to the MBE, with the MBE weighted 50%, the MEE 30% and the MPT 20%. The scores are combined to determine if the applicant has achieved a passing score of 266.

Reciprocity

Admission on motion

May be admitted without exam from states admitting attorneys from New York without exam. Must have practiced five of the last seven years and be a graduate of an ABA accredited law school.

Admission by UBE

A UBE score achieved in another UBE jurisdiction will be accepted in New York for three years from the date the applicant sat for the UBE, as long as applicant achieved a minimum score of 266 and has completed the NYLC and achieved a passing score on the NYLE. Filing fees for a score transfer are the same amounts as for new applicants.

Additional information

State specific content knowledge

Applicants must complete the NYLC and NYLE. The NYLC is an online, on demand course consisting of approximately 15-hours of videotaped lectures with embedded questions. The NYLE is a 50 item, two hour, open book, multiple choice online exam administered at select dates and times throughout the year. The passing score for the NYLE is 60% (an applicant must answer 30 out of 50 questions correctly). Written materials are available on the New York Board of Law Examiners website. Applicants can take the NYLC and NYLE up to one year before or three years after sitting for the UBE, subject to the application filing deadline of the Court of Appeals (requires filing within three years from the date when the applicant sits for the UBE). Applicants must complete the NYLC before they can register for the NYLE.

Pro bono hours

All applicants, except those on motion, must complete 50-hours of qualifying Pro Bono work.

Qualifying work can be done in other states or countries after you commence your legal studies, as long as the pro bono work does not violate your law school's regulations or policies. For details visit ww2.nycourts.gov/attorneys/probono/baradmissionreqs.shtml

Skills competency and professional values

All applicants who commenced their studies after August 1, 2016 must establish they have acquired skills and professional values necessary to practice law. See Sec. 520.18 of the Rules of the Court of Appeals.

New York Board of Law Examiners

Tel: (518) 453-5990

Web: www.nybarexam.org

The Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination

In addition to the bar examination, the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE) must be passed before you can be certified for admission to practice as a New York or California Attorney-at-Law.

The MPRE is not considered a particularly difficult examination but BARBRI recommends two weeks of concentrated study in order to ensure first time success. BARBRI provides MPRE preparation free of charge.

MPRE exam detail

The MPRE is a two-hour, 60-question multiple-choice examination on ethics and professional conduct covering the American Bar Association’s (ABA) Code of Responsibility, the Model Rules of Professional Conduct and the ABA Code of Judicial Conduct.

Timing: The MPRE is administered by the National Conference of Bar Examiners in March, August and October each year.

National Conference of Bar Examiners

Web: www.ncbex.org/exams/mpre

BARBRI MPRE course

The BARBRI MPRE Review illustrates how the issues are framed on the exam and how you should apply the law. You will be well prepared to answer questions in the mindset that the examiners expect from a U.S. licensed, practicing attorney.

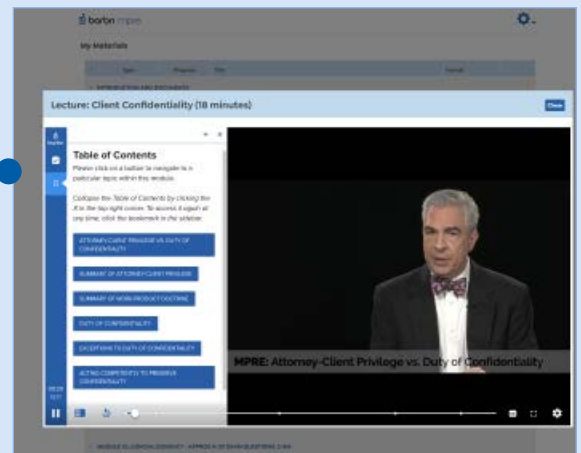
Free MPRE review

You receive access to a substantive outline of the MPRE law, including the various codes, and practice exams containing actual MPRE questions and model answers are provided.



Online lectures

You will also access comprehensive lectures which review the scope, substance and techniques needed to undertake the MPRE.



Upon successful completion
of the admission requirements,
you are a U.S. qualified attorney



BARBRI Extended U.S. Bar Prep

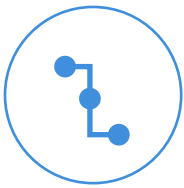
The most personalized and flexible way to study for a U.S. bar exam



Course designed for you
international law
grads & lawyers



**ISAAC engine creates
Personal Study Plan**
Your online, personalized
study schedule



Flexibility
Longer course
duration options,
flexible schedule



Interactive expert lectures
100% exam-focused from
top U.S. professors



1:1 mentor
U.S. attorney,
personal coach



Expert guidance
Foreign evaluation
of credentials & bar
exam application

1.3M

BARBRI is the largest U.S. bar preparation company in the world. For over 50 years, BARBRI has helped more than 1.3 million now licensed attorneys pass a U.S. bar exam.

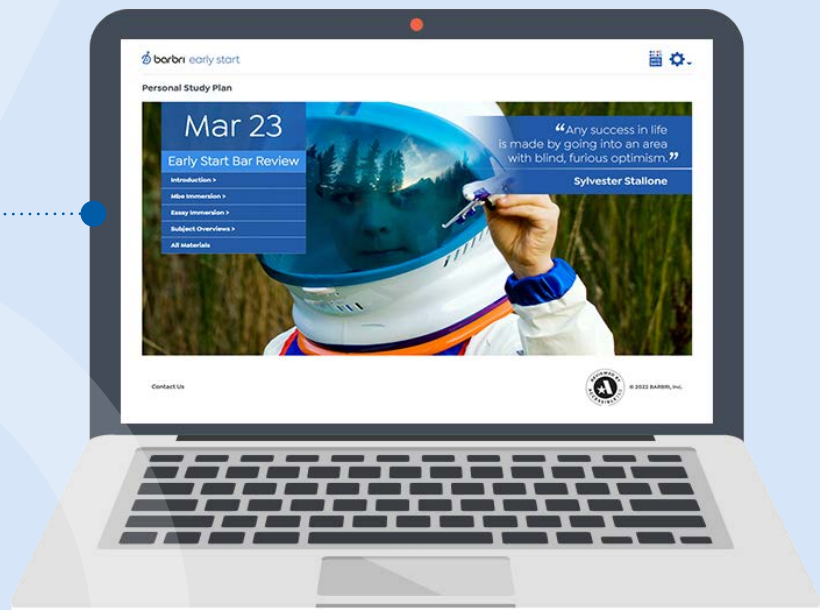
Life does not stop during bar prep



You have your own learning style and schedule. Your bar prep should reflect that. ISAAC is the engine that creates your BARBRI Personal Study Plan (PSP). It's the difference between a "one size fits all" course and a "personalized specifically for you" experience.

ISAAC takes over 50 years' worth of bar exam knowledge, and runs all of that intelligence through a proprietary algorithm. Why? So you can study smarter, not harder, and make the most of your time.

The bar exam covers a lot of material, but here's a fact you might not know: Not every subject that can appear on your test is created equal. Some areas of the law are tested nearly all of the time, while other subjects are tested very infrequently.



ISAAC curates your BARBRI Personal Study Plan

ISAAC uses AI, algorithms and more to first focus your study on what's most likely to be tested on your exam. And it automatically recalibrates as it learns from you, your schedule customizations and time remaining until your exam.

What's really cool is that everything ISAAC assigns is statistically correlated to passing your bar exam. Whether you're on track, working ahead or falling a bit behind, ISAAC makes sure you will get you the most points possible.

Flexible, part-time bar prep course options

Study 100% online from home, work, or anywhere in the world with a flexible schedule that works for you. With 6 and 10-month course duration options, Extended U.S. Bar Prep is perfect for any aspiring U.S. lawyer who desires extra time, more flexibility, and exceptional 1:1 mentor support.

The 6-month course runs February through July preparing for the July bar exam or September through February preparing for the February exam.

The 10-month course runs September through July preparing for the July bar exam or April through February preparing for the February exam.

6-month	10-month
Study on average 20-25 hours per week over 6-months	Study on average 10-15 hours per week over 10-months
Study for the NY / UBE or CA Bar Exam	Study for the NY / UBE or CA Bar Exam

MyBARBRI Connect + 1:1 Mentor

BARBRI continues to re-imagine the bar exam prep experience with the introduction of MyBARBRI Connect plus a 1:1 mentor.

With BARBRI Extended U.S. Bar Prep, you will receive individual guidance from a 1:1 mentor. Your U.S. qualified attorney mentor is your “person” throughout your bar exam prep. They are your personal coach who happens to also be an expert on your course and on your state's bar exam.

Your mentor is your personal advocate, providing encouragement and personalized guidance through unlimited check-ins and coaching sessions. Mentors also conduct online workshops that allow you to connect with other students. You'll also receive guidance through the Foreign Evaluation of Credentials and bar exam application process as needed.

U.S. qualified lawyers	Expertise in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning science • Study methodologies • U.S. bar exams 	Extensive experience with the BARBRI course	Foreign or U.S. trained & based internationally or domestically
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Additional experiences ISAAC will curate throughout your Extended U.S. bar prep course

□ Foundations in U.S. Law

The Foundations in U.S. Law pre-course allows you to begin building foundational skills before you start the core bar preparation course.

It was designed specifically for non-U.S. educated law grads and begins with an overview of the U.S. legal system. It also focuses on exam techniques that international students find difficult to master. It contains approximately 90-hours of self-directed assignments that you can complete as time allows.

□ Exam focused lectures from expert law professors

Online lectures are taught by the finest faculty consisting of renowned U.S. law school professors and subject matter experts. Lectures are examination-driven and carefully crafted to convey what you need to know in each subject to pass your exam. Recorded live in the U.S. lectures are available online throughout the course.

□ Expertly crafted multiple choice learning & practice questions

ISAAC curates thousands of multiple-choice learning and practice questions that increase in difficulty as you progress through your course. Learning and practice question sets are assigned to ensure you have a strong understanding of the most frequently tested rules before you start seeing more difficult, mixed-subject question sets. ISAAC also leverages spaced repetition as the technique is scientifically proven to boost learning and retention.

□ Directed essay grading

BARBRI Directed Essay Grading first starts with Essay Architect. Essay Architect is an exclusive, online tool designed to provide you with immediate feedback, enhancing your ability to write the ideal bar exam essay answer. Essay Architect is assigned as an early learning tool and takes you through a series of steps so you learn to critically read bar exam questions, enhance the speed of your essay writing and construct strong answers. After working with Essay Architect, you may submit written exercises to BARBRI for grading and personalized feedback on the style of your writing and the substantive content of your answer from a trained essay-writing expert.

□ Simulated exams

Two full bar exam simulations (MBE and Essay / MPT) are held throughout each Extended U.S. Bar Prep course. The exam experience is replicated to test your endurance and your decision-making under time pressure. This realistic practice gives you the opportunity to fine-tune your bar exam technique and instills the confidence necessary for success on the actual bar exam. Additionally, the exam results provide you with further insight into areas to improve upon so that you can continue to use your valuable time to study smarter.

□ Full set of hard copy materials

BARBRI is known for superior written materials. Course packages offer a full set of hard copy materials prior to the start of your bar prep course. The hard copy materials are assigned and work hand-in-hand with your online PSP.

□ PSP Progress Center

The Progress Center in your PSP shows you exactly where you stand at every step throughout your BARBRI Extended U.S. Bar Prep course. You'll always know how much you've completed and if you're staying on track. You'll also see how you're doing, by subject, compared to the rest of the students who are also studying with BARBRI for your bar exam. This invaluable insight will help ensure you are doing well enough, in enough areas, to ultimately pass your exam.

the barbri way

motivation + mastery + resilience

We're 100% confident in our proven bar prep process. Our job is to get you 100% confident in yourself.



Most passes

Nearly 76% of non-U.S. educated candidates who complete at least 80% of their Extended U.S. Bar Prep course pass their U.S. state bar exam. Now we're here for you. Don't just take our word for it, though. Ask the 1.3 million lawyers, judges and legal professionals who have passed The BARBRI Way.



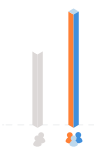
Most personalized

BARBRI is personalized to you from the beginning. ISAAC is the proprietary engine that creates a smart bar prep Personal Study Plan for you from day one. It updates based on time left until your exam, customizations you make and the most statistically significant topics for passing the bar.



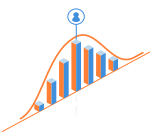
Most proven

We've spent over 50 years optimizing and investing in The BARBRI Way. That's a proven track record. And that's why every minute you spend on BARBRI bar prep increases your chances of passing the bar exam.



Most points

Master bar exam content with expert lectures from the best law professors in the country and a bank of 5K+ practice MBE questions. The result? Studies show BARBRI students score more points compared to students who don't study The BARBRI Way.



Most students

The largest pool of students prepare for the bar with BARBRI. In fact, more students prepare with BARBRI every year than all other bar prep courses. Combined.

We're here for you every step of The BARBRI Way

Which BARBRI U.S. bar prep course is best for you?

There are many powerful, common features between the BARBRI Extended U.S. Bar Prep course and the traditional BARBRI Bar Review course. Here are a few:

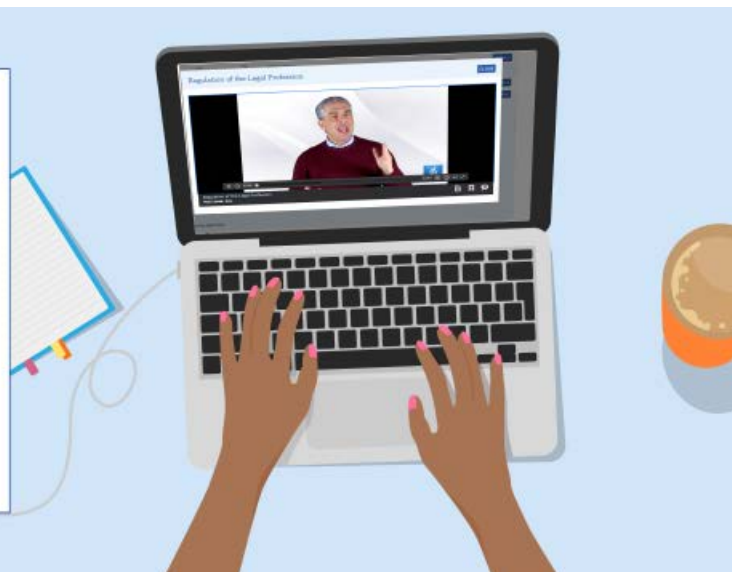
- Personal Study Plan powered by ISAAC
- PSP Progress Center
- Interactive, online expert lectures from the top names in U.S. legal education
- More than 5,500 multiple-choice learning and practice questions
- Directed essay grading with Essay Architect
- BARBRI Simulated MBE
- Digital & hard copy book set
- Submit substantive questions for U.S. qualified attorney support throughout the course
- Access to the Director of Legal Education at your law school available as needed

The BARBRI Extended U.S. Bar Prep course offers the following additional features, specifically designed with foreign-qualified law grads and lawyers in mind:

- Longer preparation with a part-time schedule:
 - § 6-month: study approx. 20-25 hours / week
 - § 10-month: study approx. 10-15 hours / week
- 1:1 assigned personal coach/mentor:
 - § U.S. qualified attorney with teaching and bar coaching experience
 - § Personalized guidance through unlimited check-ins and personal coaching sessions
 - § Live, interactive Strategies & Insights webinars throughout bar prep
 - § Live stream workshops
- Guidance through the foreign evaluation of credentials and bar application process
- 90-hours of Foundations in U.S. Law
- 2 full simulated examinations (MBE and Essay/MPT)

BARBRI guarantee

For extra reassurance, we offer the BARBRI guarantee. The BARBRI guarantee allows a student enrolled in a BARBRI Extended U.S. Bar Prep course to repeat his/her course once, for the same state, within 12 months of receiving results free of charge.



Why more people trust the BARBRI Way

BARBRI has helped more students achieve their dream of becoming a U.S. licensed lawyer than all other courses combined with alumni working around the world. Here's what a few had to say.



BARBRI provided me with all of the materials and techniques to pass the bar exam. I found the PSP to be particularly helpful because it adapts according to your progress and therefore, it ensures that you also spend adequate time on your weaker areas. Being a dual-qualified attorney (Brazil and U.S.) has enabled me to internationalize my career and have a competitive resume.

Juliana Santoro Del Pesco, LL.M., University of Pennsylvania Law School



The New York Attorney-at-Law qualification comes with a certain prestige and international mobility. Not only do many employers hold the qualification in high regard, but many also have ties with New York, a prominent global financial hub.

Yewhoan Hong, New York-licensed attorney



I knew I would take the New York Bar Exam because, in my desired field of practice, it was a go-to, especially for big law firms at which I was applying at the time.

Nelson Dijoux Coquillas, Associate in international arbitration (New York)



Because I am a full-time working professional, I knew I would need flexibility in my bar exam studies. I chose the BARBRI Extended U.S. Bar Preparation course over six months because it allowed me to weave in studies with my other commitments. There are options with BARBRI, so finding the right path to prepare for the bar exam is highly individualized and simplified.

Saurabh Aggarwal, Security, Privacy & Compliance Specialist at Alida

the barbri way

motivation + mastery + resilience

BARBRI Extended U.S. Bar Prep alumni

BARBRI alumni are working at companies and law firms around the world, including the ones below. Now we're here for you.

- State Street Global Advisors
- Ernst & Young
- Deutsche Bank
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
- KPMG
- Citigroup
- Goldman Sachs
- Deloitte
- Bank of New York Mellon
- First Derivatives PLC
- Facebook
- Google
- Bonn & Schmitt Avocats
- Dechert
- Clifford Chance
- Slaughter & May
- Baker & McKenzie
- White & Case

We're here for you every step of The BARBRI Way

Visit barbri.com/contact to find your global BARBRI contact

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