



MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

BRIDGET M. McCORMACK
CHIEF JUSTICE

MICHIGAN HALL OF JUSTICE
925 WEST OTTAWA STREET
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48915

July 29, 2020

Dear Colleague,

I remember when I took the bar exam very clearly--and there was no pandemic, or new format, or technological complications. But you sat for the online Michigan Bar Exam and got through the test, even with these added concerns.

Under normal conditions, the bar exam is a life event most recall as an ordeal. But yesterday's examination issues made the experience harder, and I am so sorry for that. While this may not be consolation, be assured that we will find out exactly what went wrong and address it for those affected and for future applicants.

There are larger questions about the Bar Exam that should be discussed, too, such as:

- Is the bar exam the best way to measure competency?
- Does the bar exam create unnecessary and unfair barriers to the practice of law?
- As we think about increasing access to the justice system, are there ways to fundamentally change how lawyers are trained, licensed, and regulated?

I am eager to have conversations about these issues here in Michigan, with all of you and other stakeholders too. And I also expect to address these questions and more in my new role serving on the Council and Accreditation Committee of the [American Bar Association Section on Legal Education and Admissions](#). In addition, I expect that the [Justice for All Task Force](#) will be making recommendations on the topic of regulatory reform in its report coming later this year.

I look forward to seeing you join the ranks of practicing attorneys. I am very confident that you and your fellow test takers are going to improve our shared profession tremendously. Thank you for your tenacity and courage so far.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bridget Mary McCormack".

Hon. Bridget Mary McCormack
Chief Justice