Michigan Board of Law Examiners
July 2021 Bar Examination Initial Information
April 29, 2021

The July 2021 exam will be conducted remotely on July 27 & 28, 2021, and will follow the traditional format – a Michigan-specific essay portion and the full 200 question Multi-State Bar Exam administered by the National Conference of Bar Examiners. The fifteen essay questions are based on the topics specified in BLE Rule 3. Prior exam essay questions are posted on the BLE website.

Except as noted below, the July 2021 bar exam will be administered remotely only. Because of the decision to hold a remote exam, the Board will only consider in-person testing for those with accommodations required under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and will do so only for those applicants that timely apply for accommodations. The Board will individually contact applicants who have been approved for accommodations to determine the method of testing for each accommodated individual, assuming that federal, state, and local restrictions permit such examination. If an in-person exam is permitted for applicants with ADA accommodations, those requiring an in-person exam will be required to adhere to federal, state, and local health recommendations and will be notified of the requirements by July 1. The location of the exam will be the Hall of Justice in Lansing.

Those who registered to handwrite the exam must contact the Board to indicate whether they will test remotely by laptop, transfer to the February 2022 exam, or wish to receive a full refund and withdraw from the Michigan law licensing process.

All applicants who have registered to use a laptop will receive a registration email from ExamSoft in late May or early June. Applicants must register with ExamSoft and are **required** to take the mock exams and have their photo identification taken at that time as part of the registration process. Any applicant who does not complete this step will not be permitted to take the exam.

Applicants are required to have their baseline photo identification verified when beginning each module of the examination. In addition to the baseline mock exam photo, applicants must submit either by email to BLE-Info@courts.mi.gov or U.S. Post, a legible copy of the applicant's driver's license or other government photo identification to the Board. This photo should be submitted prior to the exam and will be retained in the applicant's file for photo verification purposes. Exam results will not be released to any person failing to meet this requirement.

Initial Exam General Information

The exam will be set for Eastern Time. All applicants will begin the exam modules at the same time, irrespective of the time zone in which the applicants are taking the exam. The fifteen-question essay portion of the exam will consist of five modules. Each essay exam module is limited to one hour and consists of three questions for those testing under standard conditions. The MBE portion of the exam will consist of four modules. Each module will be 90 minutes and consist of 50 multiple choice questions for those testing under standard conditions. Once a module begins, you

must remain in your seat with your face in view of the camera while testing. There is no requirement that applicants be located in Michigan when testing. Details regarding the exact times for testing and the duration of breaks between each module and over lunch will be released by July 1.

All computers used for the remote exam must have audio and video capability. *Applicants are solely responsible for procuring their own computers, ensuring the device meets the ExamSoft specifications, securing a location in which to take the exam, completing the exam in their own testing environment, and ensuring internet connectivity before and after each module of the exam.*

Applicants are not required to have an internet connection while completing the modules but will need an internet connection to begin each module of the exam and to upload answers and video files after the exam. The Examplify software prevents access to the internet and all other applications while testing is in progress.

The profession of law is an honorable one and all applicants are expected to conduct themselves accordingly. There will be zero tolerance for cheating. The examination is **closed book. No access to notes, study aids, or any other type of assistance of any kind is permitted.**

Applicants are required to take the examination in a room by themselves and may not take the exam in a room with any other person. No scratch paper is permitted; however, the software contains a notes pop-up feature for use while testing. Applicants are required to have their face remain in view of the computer video camera at all times during a testing session. Instructions on how to ensure your entire face is in view of the camera can be found on the ExamSoft website.

Artificial intelligence and video will flag any irregularities. The Board will review irregularities and anyone determined to have cheated on the exam or to have failed to follow the exam rules will be referred to character and fitness and may be denied a law license.

Additional information, including specific rules for the exam, will be posted on the BLE's July 2021 Exam Page website as it becomes available. **As stated in the Michigan Supreme Court's Administrative Order 2021-2 issued April 21, 2021, applicants "have the affirmative obligation to frequently check the Board's website, where updates, instructions, and other vital information will be provided."**

Initial ExamSoft Information/Computer Requirements

The ExamSoft Minimum Standard Requirements (MSR) have been updated for the most current information. Please ensure you scroll to the end of their page at the link below to review the requirements for ExamID and ExamMonitor. The linked page also includes other links to instructions on how applicants can check their device against the MSRs. Due to the use of the remote proctoring software, it is essential to ensure you have enough memory available for video storage. Therefore, the minimum amount may not be adequate and you will want to ensure you have the recommended available memory.

https://examsoft.com/resources/examplify-minimum-system-requirements

The following is a link to an article that explains Examplify, ExamID, and ExamMonitor from an exam taker's perspective.

https://examsoft.force.com/etcommunity/s/article/Examplify-with-ExamID-and-ExamMonitor