

News Release



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For immediate release: **July 15, 2020**

In-Person Bar Exam Cancelled; Remote Exam Set for October

New Jersey's fall 2020 in-person bar exam has been cancelled and instead is being offered remotely, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner announced today.

The in-person exam that was scheduled for Sept. 9-10 now will be administered remotely by the New Jersey Board of Bar Examiners on Oct. 5-6, as directed by a [Supreme Court order](#).

“Like other court functions that have transitioned successfully to remote operations, a remote bar examination will maintain professional standards and public confidence at a time when health officials counsel against large, in-person events,” Chief Justice Rabner wrote on behalf of the Court.

While the September test was to be administered at multiple locations, the nationwide spread of COVID-19 remains a concern. Of the nearly 2,000 law school graduates who have applied to take the exam, about 900 are from out of state and 150 are from states whose residents are subject to the Governor's two-week self-quarantine advisory.

“Although New Jersey has made significant inroads to combat the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, COVID-19 is gaining strength in many areas of the country and continues to be a serious threat to health and safety. Under the circumstances, and guided by the science, the Supreme Court has concluded it is simply unsafe to gather 2,000 applicants, even across multiple coordinated locations, for an in-person bar examination,” Chief Justice Rabner wrote.

As of now, Massachusetts, Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Tennessee have announced they will administer the remote examination in October. The Court will seek to enter into agreements with those jurisdictions, and any others that follow suit, to allow exam results to be accepted reciprocally.

Candidates should go to the [Board of Bar Examiners' website](#) for further information regarding their applications and the upcoming exam.

Those who already have applied are automatically registered for the October remote exam. Candidates also can defer to a future in-person exam and would be permitted to temporarily practice law, without a license, under the supervision of attorneys. [An order](#) relaxing court rules requires the supervising attorneys to be in good standing and have been licensed for a minimum of three years.

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