



**THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA  
COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS/OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS**

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**ADMISSION TO PRACTICE LAW IN CALIFORNIA BY ATTORNEYS  
ADMITTED TO PRACTICE IN THE UNITED STATES**

The requirements for admission to practice law in California are contained in the *Rules Regulating Admission to Practice Law in California (Rules)*. The following is a summary of the requirements for attorneys who are admitted in other states or jurisdictions of the United States. For the specific requirements, please refer to the *Rules*.

To be admitted to practice law in California, an attorney applicant must comply with the requirements outlined in the *Rules*, which include: 1) registration as an attorney applicant; 2) a positive moral character determination; 3) passage of the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE); and, 4) passage of the California Bar Examination. Additionally, an applicant must not be certified by the State Department of Social Services as being in non-compliance with a court ordered child or family support obligation. There is no requirement of citizenship or residency.

Attorney applicants admitted in other states or jurisdictions of the United States who have been admitted in active status in good standing four years immediately preceding the first day of the administration of the California Bar Examination, may elect to take the Attorneys' Examination, which is of two days duration and consists of six essay questions and the two performance test questions from the California Bar Examination. Attorney applicants admitted less than four years, attorneys not in good standing and attorneys not in active status must take the General Bar Examination, which is of three days duration and consists of six essay questions, two performance test questions and a 200-item multiple-choice Multistate Bar Examination portion. Attorneys qualified to take the Attorneys' Examination may choose to take the California Bar Examination instead of the Attorneys' Examination.

As the first step, attorney applicants must register with the Committee of Bar Examiners through the Internet by accessing the application through the Admissions' portion of The State Bar of California's Web site at [www.calbar.ca.gov/admissions](http://www.calbar.ca.gov/admissions), prior to filing an application either to take the California Bar Examination or for a moral character determination. Please refer to Rule IV, Sections 1 and 2, Rule V, Section 3 and Rule VIII, Section 2 of the *Rules*. A fee is required at the time the registration application is submitted. A determination regarding an attorney applicant's eligibility to take either the California Bar Examination or Attorneys' Examination will be made based upon submission of current Certificates of Good Standing from the jurisdiction(s) to which the applicant has been admitted.

The California Bar Examination is administered in February and July of each year. Applications are only available online by accessing the Admissions' portion of the State Bar of California's Web site at [www.calbar.ca.gov/admissions](http://www.calbar.ca.gov/admissions). Applications are available October 1 of the prior year for the February examination and March 1 for the July examination. The timely filing deadline is November 1 for the February examination and April 1 for the July examination.

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The scope of subjects tested on the examination, grading information and other important admission information is available online at the Web page address noted above. No syllabus or reading list exists; however, various study aids are available to assist in preparation for taking the examination, which are also available on the Admissions' Web pages.

The MPRE is administered by the National Conference of Bar Examiners. Scores received on that examination in other states may be transferred to California for purposes of qualifying for admission to practice law in California. Additional information regarding the California MPRE requirements is available through the Internet through the Admissions' Web pages at <http://calbar.ca.gov/calbar/pdfs/admissions/62sf0301.pdf> and at the National Conference of Bar Examiners' Web site found at [www.ncbex.org](http://www.ncbex.org).