

Important Information for the New York State Bar Examination

The New York State Board of Law Examiners requires every foreign-educated applicant to the bar examination to prove that their foreign legal education qualifies to sit for the New York bar examination. This is required even for holders of LLM degrees granted by ABA-accredited law schools, but is not required for holders of JD degrees granted by ABA-accredited law schools.

To do this, every foreign-educated applicant must submit the Foreign Evaluation Form to the Board, a process which can take a significant period of time. The N.Y. State Board of Law Examiners requires: “all foreign-educated applicants **MUST** complete the Foreign Evaluation Form and have all of their required foreign education documentation to the Board six months prior to the first day of the application filing period for the exam they wish to take.”¹ For example:

| Exam | First Day of Application Period | Deadline for Foreign Evaluation Form and Documentation |
|---------------|---------------------------------|--|
| February 2014 | November 1, 2013 | May 1, 2013 |
| July 2014 | April 1, 2014 | October 1, 2013 |

In fact, the New York State Board of Law Examiners strongly recommends that “foreign educated applicants who may need to complete an LL.M. degree at an ABA-approved law school to cure a deficiency in their foreign legal education to obtain an advance determination of their eligibility **prior to** enrolling in an LLM program.” *Id.* For more information on the New York requirements for foreign-educated applicants and to complete the Foreign Evaluation Form, please visit <http://www.nybarexam.org/foreign/foreignlegaleducation.htm>.

¹ Letter from John J. McAlary, Executive Director, New York State Board of Law Examiners, to Gail B. Agrawal, Dean of University of Iowa College of Law (Dec. 18, 2012) (on file with the College of Law Associate Dean of Students).