
HOW BEST TO USE YOUR TIME AT SJU TO SET YOURSELF UP FOR SUCCESS ON THE BAR EXAM, MPRE, AND NYLE

Hosted by: Julia Shea & Ashlyn Stone



INTRODUCTIONS

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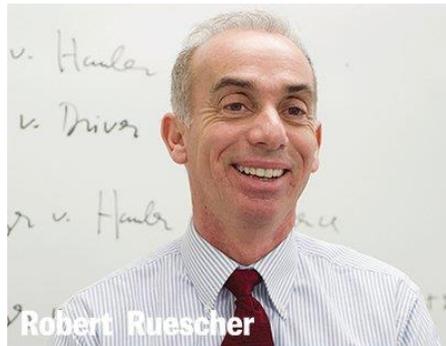
Ashlyn Stone

- Contact Info:
 - Phone number: 336-409-1461
 - Email address: ashlyn.stone20@stjohns.edu or ashlynstone2@gmail.com if you need to contact me after graduation 😊
- After graduation, I will be working in Corporate at Alston & Bird and hope to transition to sports-related practice later in my future.
- Fun Fact: I have become addicted to playing Disney Dreamlight Valley in my spare time.
- My favorite of all the bar-tested classes at SJU was Torts, Civil Procedure, & Business Organizations.

Julia Shea

- Contact Info:
 - Phone number: (845) 803-9844
 - Email address: julia.shea20@stjohns.edu or juliashea17@gmail.com
- Current 3L – After graduation I will be a litigator at Dechert, hopefully doing white collar work.
- Fun Fact: I've been skydiving three times.
- My favorite of all the bar-tested classes at SJU were Crim Pro, Evidence, and Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.

Professor Rachel Paras



Robert Ruescher



Rachel Paras

94%
BAR PASSAGE RATE



ST. JOHN'S
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW

- Our (wonderful) Senior Director of Bar Preparation at SJU & Adjunct Professor at the law school!
 - Email: parasr@stjohns.edu
- Great resource if you have questions about anything bar-related!
- You will see plenty of emails from her about the MPRE, NYLE, and Bar Prep when the time comes
 - She also teaches the bar prep workshops the summer you graduate with Prof. Ruescher



Matthew Mundo

- BARBRI Senior Director of Legal Education – covers SJU as well as some other NY schools
 - (but he likes St. John's best 😊)
- You may have seen him last week at the Public Interest auction donating BARBRI courses for students to bid on!
- The person to reach out to if you are ever having an issue with your BARBRI account or need something specifically BARBRI related!
- Email: matthew.mundo@barbri.com

**PART I: HOW TO USE
BARBRI TO HELP YOU
DURING THE
SEMESTER**

1L/ Upper-Level Mastery BARBRI Material

- This is a great resource you now have full access to as part of your tuition! Take advantage of it!
- Multiple components—you have access to both a book of outlines as well as lecture videos, practice multiple choice questions, and practice essays for all covered subjects
- BARBRI content covers all of the BAR TESTED 1L and upper-class subjects but in a way geared toward helping you do well on the finals for your substantive classes

The BARBRI Outlines

- Great for when you are confused about a specific point/ area of the law you are covering in class and want to look it up in an easy-to-access format!
- They contain general black letter law (majority and minority rules) but remember they are NOT geared to NY Law
 - Hint: make sure you always study the NY statutes professors give you in class--they love to test on them
- They come in a large physical book and in .pdf format on the BARBRI website – lmk if you need a copy of the physical books!

THE BARBRI LECTURE VIDEOS



1L BARBRI Subjects

- Civil Procedure
- Contracts
- Criminal Law
- Property
- Torts
- Constitutional Law
 - Covers both 1L Con Law & CRCL

Upper Level BARBRI Subjects

- Corporations (aka Business Organizations)
- Criminal Procedure
 - Crim Pro Investigation/Adjudication
- Evidence
- Family law
- Secured Transactions
- Taxation
- Wills & Trusts (aka Trusts & Estates)

What are the lectures good for?

- The lectures are great for when it is a week before the final and you have absolutely no idea what is going on in a class
- Convenient—you can put them on your phone to listen to while you're commuting, etc.
- Great intro for what the actual bar prep lecture videos are like!

BARBRI MPRE Prep Course

- While the rules you learn in Pro Ro will apply to the MPRE, they won't cover all the material tested—that's where the BARBRI course comes in
- Comes with:
 - The BARBRI MPRE book with lecture handout (hard copy or .pdf)
 - Online lectures (similar to the mastery lectures)
 - Hundreds of MPRE practice questions
 - Simulated practice tests
 - MPRE Maximizer “cram packet” – a quick-study guide

How to enroll in the MPRE course:

- Even though the MPRE course is free to everyone and part of your overall BARBRI package, you still have to enroll to get access to the materials!
- Use the following link, scroll to the bottom of the page, and hit “Enroll Now”
 - <https://www.barbri.com/mpre-review/#enroll>

How do I access BARBRI you ask?

<https://esc.barbri.com/login.html>

(everyone should have received an email from the school letting them know how to set up their account—reach out to one of us directly if you are having trouble)

Other Resources:

- The [West Academic Study Aids Collection](#) is now available to all St. John's Law students, at your fingertips, for free!
- **What's included?**
 - This package includes a wealth of study aids in 1L and 2L/3L subjects (including elective subjects not tested on the bar exam).

West Study Aid Collection Includes:

- The package includes **different types** of electronic study aids, such as:
 - Audio lectures
 - Video lectures
 - Hornbooks and treatises
 - Case summaries
 - Outlines
 - Exam Preparation

Popular Titles in the Collection:

- Some popular **titles** included in the package are:
 - Short & Happy Guides (← these are amazing)
 - Black Letter Outlines
 - Law School Legends Audio Series
 - Gilbert Law Summaries (← also amazing)
 - And much more!

How to Sign Up For West Study:

- **How to access these great materials and create a personal account:**
- **Easy Option 1:** Users can access all of the material on the platform through the library by using [the SJU single sign-on](#)
- **Easy Option 2:** Create an individual account to the platform and tailor it to your needs. Creating a West Academic account allows you to annotate, save favorites, listen to audio lectures, download titles for offline access, and more. Here's how:
 - Go to subscription.westacademic.com
 - Click 'Create an Account' in the upper right-hand corner. Follow the prompts.
 - Once you create an account you will be automatically logged into West Academic
 - Verify your email address one of two ways:
 - If you are already logged in, click on your name in the upper right-hand corner and click My Account. Enter your school or work email address under "My School/Organization" Click "Check for Materials" and check your email for a verification link.
 - The next time you log in you will be prompted to confirm your email. Enter your school email address and check your email for a verification link.
 - Once you have verified your email address you can access all the content available in your subscription and you can log-in independently from your school's network.

**PART II: WHAT CLASSES
SHOULD YOU BE TAKING
DURING SCHOOL TO
PREPARE YOU FOR THE BAR
EXAM?**

Short Answer:

You should take any and all of the bar tested subject courses that we offer at St. Johns that you can fit into your schedule!!

Why?

- When you take a bar tested subject as a class, you get to spend four months learning something as opposed to having to learn it in a week over the summer alongside all the other bar exam subjects!
- Gives you an opportunity to learn your strengths & weaknesses in advance
- Will ensure your bar prep period is mostly “bar review” and not “bar learn something completely new”

Some popular myths you might hear:

- **“Non-bar tested subject courses are easier to get an A in”**
 - Not always true—sometimes it is actually harder because you can’t ride the curve with fewer students
- **“Paper courses are less work because you don’t have to take a final”**
 - In a lot of paper courses, your final paper has to be 30+ pages long and may be due before finals even typically start
- **“My friend didn’t study for the bar exam/only studied for a week/etc. and still passed”**
 - Not only is this a false statement 99.9% of the time, why would you want to take that risk? You are gambling with your career you have worked so hard for!

Things to consider:

- Employers often prefer to see on your transcript that you have taken universally recognized bar-tested subject courses that challenged you over “easier” niche subject courses & like to ask about them in interviews
- You really need to know the rules of Evidence no matter what type of lawyer you become!
- If you take the course now and you are confused/struggling, you have already identified a weak area you need to focus on for the bar AND you have more of an opportunity to ask the professor questions
 - If you are struggling to learn it now, that is better than struggling to learn it when you have only a few weeks to learn it before the biggest test of your life!!

WHAT IS TESTED ON THE BAR EXAM?

<p>FIRST MPT 1.5 HOURS</p> <p>SECOND MPT 1.5 HOURS</p> <p><u>20%</u></p>	<p>0 – 100 Questions <u>25%</u></p> <p>1- EVIDENCE 2- REAL PROPERTY 3- CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE 4- CONSTITUTIONAL LAW 5- CIVIL PROCEDURE 6- TORTS 7- CONTRACTS</p>
<p>MEE – 6 ESSAYS <u>30%</u></p> <p>The seven subjects of the MBE plus:</p> <p>AGENCY AND PARTNERSHIPS TRUST WILLS AND ESTATES CORPORATIONS FAMILY LAW CONFLICT OF LAWS SECURED TRANSACTION</p>	<p>100 – 200 Questions <u>25%</u></p> <p>1- EVIDENCE 2- REAL PROPERTY 3- CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE 4- CONSTITUTIONAL LAW 5- CIVIL PROCEDURE 6- TORTS 7- CONTRACTS</p>

All the bar-tested subject courses at SJU

- All 1L courses:
 - Contracts
 - Criminal Law
 - Constitutional Law
 - Property
 - Torts
 - Civil Procedure
 - Legal writing not on the bar per se but it does have an essay portion—the MEE
- Evidence
- Civil Rights & Civil Liberties
- Business Organization
- Crim Pro Investigation
- Crim Pro Adjudication
- Trusts & Estates
- Family Law
- Conflicts of Law
- Secured Transactions
- Advanced Torts

Tentative Next Semester Schedule: <https://stjlawstudent.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Tentative-Spring-2023-Course-List.pdf>

What non-bar tested courses should you take?

- If you know exactly what type of lawyer you want to be already and the school offers a class very specifically tailored to that field, you should probably still take the class if it fits in your schedule alongside mostly bar-tested subjects
 - **E.g.:** Mergers & Acquisitions for corporate lawyers; NY Criminal/Civil Practice & Trial Advocacy for those who want to be PDs/Prosecutors/Personal Injury Lawyers, etc.
- **Remember though:** Whatever job you get, you WILL be trained when you start there! Don't think you need to or will graduate with all the knowledge you need to be a practicing lawyer right off the bat!

MAIN TAKEAWAY

Yes, getting good grades is really important

- BUT -

In all reality, the bar exam is more important because you can't be a lawyer if you don't pass the bar exam!!!!

**PART III: THE MPRE &
THE NYLE – WHAT YOU
SHOULD KNOW**



What is the MPRE?

- At its core, an **ethics** exam that tests your knowledge of the ABA Model Rules of Professional Responsibility & their comments
- Required in every state except for Wisconsin and Puerto Rico
- Two-hour, 60-question multiple-choice examination that is administered three times per year
- Don't believe the people that tell you you don't have to study for it!

Passing the MPRE

- Passing score varies by jurisdiction:
 - In NY, the scaled score you have to get is an 85
 - Make sure you check for the jurisdiction you are entering!
- Test is curved to help ensure that you are not unfairly penalized (or rewarded) for taking a more (or less) difficult version of the exam
 - To pass in NY you need to aim to get about 30/50 of the GRADED questions correct to achieve a score of 85 (but that is an estimation)
- 10 of the 60 questions are “test” questions that are not graded – no way to know which are which

What should you be doing to prepare for the MPRE?

- 1) Make sure that you sign up to take Professional Responsibility (“Pro Ro”) in your 2L year—it is a requirement at SJU
- 2) **STRONGLY CONSIDER** taking the MPRE while you are enrolled in Pro Ro even if in the middle of the semester – it will be so much easier
 - > Definitely recommend taking as a 2L, because during 3L, you take the NYLE, and 3 tests within one calendar year is a lot to put yourself through!
- 3) Use the BARBRI MPRE course to study!
 - > BARBRI course is taught as if you had never taken Pro Ro

Why should you take the MPRE while you are in Pro Ro?

- A bunch of people tend to take ProRo one semester and the MPRE the following semester but you risk forgetting a lot of what you have learned
- Benefit of the BARBRI course (as we talked about with Bar Review) is that most of the course will be a refresher, not a first time learning experience if you've taken Pro Ro
- Pro Ro at SJU is not geared 100% toward the MPRE but most professors give you some practice questions to help you!
 - But, prepping for the MPRE will get you ahead and thinking on the topics prior to exam crunch time!

Upcoming MPRE test dates:

Test Administration	Recommended Submission Date to Apply for Accommodations	Registration Deadline Fee: \$150
March 23 or 24, 2022	December 7, 2021	January 21, 2022
August 10 or 11, 2022	April 28, 2022	June 9, 2022
November 14 or 15, 2022	August 3, 2022	September 14, 2022
Test Administration	Recommended Submission Date to Apply for Accommodations	Registration Deadline Fee: \$150
March 28 or 29, 2023	December 5, 2022	January 26, 2023
August 9 or 10, 2023	April 24, 2023	June 8, 2023 (registration not yet open)
November 2 or 3, 2023	July 24, 2023	September 12, 2023 (registration not yet open)

What is the NYLE?

- Yet another standardized test you must take (but only if you want to be admitted in NY)
- 50 question, two-hour exam that tests on the basics of NY specific law
- You must take the New York Law Course before you can register to take the NYLE – 17 hours of video lectures with multiple choice questions
- The exam itself is administered on Examsoft and (almost) all the answers come from the materials provided to you as part of the NYLC packet

Subjects tested on the NYLE

- Administrative Law
- Business Relationships
- Civil Practice and Procedure
- Conflict of Laws
- Contracts
- Criminal Law and Procedure
- Evidence
- Matrimonial and Family Law
- Professional Responsibility
- Real Property
- Torts and Tort Damages
- Trusts, Wills and Estates

When to take the NYLE

- By default, you cannot take the NYLE until you are a 3L because you are only allowed to take it within one year before when you sit for the bar exam OR any time after you sit for the bar exam
- However, do you really want to be taking another 50-question exam after you've just done the entire bar exam? Chances are you're going to want that time to relax before you have to start your real lawyer job

REMEMBER

- Electronically searching the Course Materials while taking the NYLE by using a searchable version of the Course Materials is a violation of Board Rule 6000.13 and may result in penalties including nullification of your registration for the NYLE, nullification of your NYLE score, a period of suspension from repeating the NYLE, and disclosure of your misconduct to the Appellate Division in New York having jurisdiction over your application for admission and to other jurisdictions.
- However, you are allowed to either print the packet and physically search through it or have a second device and scroll through the document. That being said, you cannot convert the document to be searchable, as that is a violation of the above code.

If you are a current 2L:

You will be eligible to take the NYLC beginning on July 25-26, 2023 because your bar exam will be on July 25-26, 2024!

DO NOT START ANY EARLIER

Dates of NYLE	Registration Deadline
Thursday, December 15, 2022 12:00PM ET	Tuesday, November 15, 2022 11:59PM ET
Thursday, March 30, 2023 12:00PM ET	Tuesday, February 28, 2023 11:59PM ET
Thursday, September 14, 2023 12:00PM ET	Tuesday, August 15, 2023 11:59PM ET
Thursday, December 14, 2023 12:00PM ET	Tuesday, November 14, 2023 11:59PM ET

Something to keep in mind: 50 pro bono hour requirement to be admitted to the NYS bar

MANDATORY 50-HOUR PRO BONO REQUIREMENT

Beginning in January 2013, a new rule affecting bar admission in New York will be in effect. All candidates seeking admission after January 1, 2015, with the exception of admission on motion candidates, will need to file documentation showing that they have completed 50 hours of qualifying pro bono work, as required by [Rule 520.16 of the Rules of the Court of Appeals](#). For further information regarding the implementation and requirements of the new rule, Frequently Asked Questions, and the Form Affidavit of Compliance that must be filed with your Application for Admission please visit <http://www.nycourts.gov/attorneys/probono/baradmissionreqs.shtml>. The FAQs contain information on the web address and toll free telephone number in the event that you have an inquiry.

What counts as pro bono work?

- Pro bono work must be law-related and supervised by an attorney, judge, or law school faculty or instructor in order to qualify.
- Internships with a broad range of organizations including legal services providers; public defender and prosecutor offices; not-for-profit organizations; state, local, or federal government agencies or legislative bodies; and judges or court systems can all count if the work is law-related and properly supervised by an attorney.
- Pro bono work abroad can also qualify if it is law-related and properly supervised. You will be asked to explain the nature and circumstances of the work in detail.
- Pro bono work at a law firm can qualify as long as no fee is being paid, and the work is duly supervised and law related.
- Many, though not all law school clinics qualify.
- You are allowed to receive funding or academic credit for qualifying pro bono work and still satisfy the requirement.

What does **NOT** count as pro bono work?

- Scholarly research, such as academic research for a professor or work for a law journal or publication.
- Student-directed pro bono. AKA positions where students are not supervised by an attorney.
- Community service that is not law-related, such as serving food at a shelter.
- Pro bono work done before you started law school. However, LLMs can count some work completed prior to the LLM program.

When should I do the 50 hours of Pro Bono work?

- ASAP!!!!!! You need to have it done when you apply to the bar
- If you already worked for a qualifying employer, you just need to take this affidavit back to them (**AFTER GETTING IT NOTARIZED**) and have them fill it out
 - **Link to affidavit:**
https://ww2.nycourts.gov/sites/default/files/document/files/2021-01/F-Bar_Admissions-Pro%20Bono%20Requirements.pdf
- If you need to find a way to get these hours, but aren't working in a public interest position, I suggest reaching out to the **Public Interest Center** who can help you find a way to meet the requirement

How many credits do I need to graduate?

- 89 Credits
 - 36 in required courses (1L year classes, plus the 5/6 of the following courses: Evidence, Business Organizations, Tax Law, Civil Rights & Civil Liberties, Administrative Law, & Trusts & Estates); 53 in elective offerings
- Broken into semesters following your 1L (29 hours), that means 60 credit hours need to be split between 4 semesters.
 - Split evenly, you'd have 15 credit hours per semester.
 - Keep in mind that 16 credit hours per semester is the max.
 - Also keep in mind that the credit allocation includes pre-sessions. We highly suggest taking a pre-session on your heavier semesters to take credits requirements off the actual semester.

**GOOD LUCK WITH
THE MPRE/ NYLE AND
THE REST OF YOUR
TIME AT SJU LAW!!**

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