

From: Lee A Lockridge
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 11:06 AM
To: law-recent-grads-l
Subject: Announcement from Louisiana Supreme Court

Dear 2020 Graduates:

I am linking here both [the press release](#) and the Louisiana Supreme Court [Order](#) related to the bar exam. The Order provides for Emergency Admission to the Louisiana bar for ***many*** graduates from December 2019 and later who are registered for the July 2020 or October 2020 Louisiana bar exam, first-time takers only.

SO: For many of you, congratulations! If you were registered for the Louisiana bar examination for the first time, you now have a path to licensure in Louisiana without the uncertainty of the online bar examination if you so choose. Please review the linked Order very carefully. There are details and caveats.

One thing I would like to emphasize to any of you before you read the Order: it is not unanimous. It was a 4 to 3 vote, just a slim majority. Those dissenting wrote in support of their dissenting views, with two of the three dissenting Justices expressing their views quite strenuously. I encourage you to review those dissents in peace and with great grace, understanding that all the Justices were and are trying to balance interests, including the vital interest in protecting the public. Law is a great profession, and the Court does have responsibility for ensuring careful oversight of admission to the bar. There is a lot of passion on this topic. Many of you reading this message have an opportunity to become part of the practicing bar in Louisiana—and all of you have the opportunity in one state or another, whether or not you are currently exercising it—and I encourage you to read with your chin up, head held high, maintaining your professionalism as you enter your new careers.

Some of you may have registered both for the Louisiana exam and an exam in another state, such as in Texas, due to the unusual circumstances of the year, where it had become possible to take more than one exam during 2020. The Court has decided to require you to choose your path to admission. See page 2, II.2.c. (“A person shall be considered a Qualified Candidate [for admission in Louisiana without the exam] if the person has: ... Not previously sat for any bar examination in any state or territory in the United States and will not be taking the bar examination in any state or territory in the United States in 2020.”) Feel free to reach out to me or another trusted Law Center advisor if you approach this fork in the road.

And—I do add this detail with a smile but also in seriousness—for anyone still sitting for the remote, online exam: the Justices have ordered “scratch paper”! I consider this a genuine advance and accomplishment.

Be well, do good work, and continue to take time for yourselves and others during this still-stressful time in your lives—reach out to someone you know to give and receive support.

All my best—and wear a mask, and wash those hands!

Dean Lockridge

Lee Ann Wheelis Lockridge
Interim Dean
David Weston Robinson Professor of Law
McGlinchey Stafford Professor of Law
Louisiana State University Law Center
East Campus Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803
law.lsu.edu