

The Zen of Passing the Bar Exam

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FOR ZEN

*... the love of my life, my heart & soul,
my inspiration, my greatest teacher, my son.*

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Introduction

*When the student is ready,
the teacher will appear.*

Since 2003, I have been tutoring for the bar exam. I currently lecture nationally for BarBri bar review, and I also teach seminars throughout the country on the topics covered in this book. About the time I started tutoring for the bar exam, I began to notice the many parallels between how one should approach the bar exam, and how Zen principles teach one to approach life. I incorporated many of these principles into my tutoring, and the results have been incredible. I've written this book to reach an even larger audience, in the hope that others might also be helped on the path to passing the bar exam.

Zen is a way of life—and so is passing the bar exam. I have written this book to offer a comprehensive way to approach studying for (and passing) the bar exam. In Zen, the ultimate goal is to reach enlightenment (or nirvana). As for the bar exam, the ultimate goal is passing. Accordingly, throughout the book I liken the end goal of enlightenment of Zen with the end goal of the “enlightenment” of passing the bar exam.

In each section, I offer a Zen quote¹ to introduce concepts that can be applied to studying for the bar exam in order to maximize your chances of passing. I truly believe that this approach is, for many, the best approach to passing the exam. Buddhism is about balance, knowing yourself, knowing your universe, and staying focused on the path to enlightenment. Similarly, these principles should be the foundation for maximizing your chances of passing the bar exam.

In addition to offering a comprehensive approach to studying, I also offer specific, practical advice for doing well on both the essay and MBE portions of the bar exam. I hope you enjoy reading this book as much as I enjoyed writing it. Enjoy your path to enlightenment.

*The journey of a thousand miles
must begin with a single step...*

1. Several of the quotes have been passed down from Zen Masters through the years and have no attribution; a handful of quotes/stories are from Daniel Levin's *The Zen Book* (which I highly recommend); and other quotes I have attributed where appropriate.