

THE ZEN OF PASSING THE BAR EXAM



The Zen of Passing the Bar Exam

SECOND EDITION

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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.

I wrote this book for one reason: to help you pass the bar exam. I tutored for the bar exam for over fifteen years. 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 noticed 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 their path to passing the bar exam.

Zen is a way of life—and so is passing the bar exam. This book offers a comprehensive approach to studying for (and passing) the bar exam. The lessons are grounded in Zen mindfulness, but this book also relies heavily on the latest research in neuroscience, learning theory, nutrition, etc. 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 equate the end goal of enlightenment of Zen with the end goal of the “enlightenment” of passing the bar exam.

INTRODUCTION

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. Zen is about simplicity, 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 the essay, MBE, and MPT 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....

LAO TZU

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.