

TO: First Year Students
 FROM: Office of Career Services
 DATE: October 7, 2009
 RE: Important Information Regarding Bar Examination
 Early Registration/Filing Requirements

Although the bar examination is three years away, and most states do not require you to file an application form to sit for the bar exam until January – May of your third year of law school, you should be aware that the states listed below require law students to register or file certain forms to begin the application process prior to the final application deadline for the bar examination. Since the registration and application fees in the states may increase significantly if students register or file after the dates indicated below, we suggest that you contact the bar admissions office (a.k.a. board of bar examiners) for any of the states in which you would consider taking the bar examination to obtain information about the registration process.

Please note: While this list of states requiring student registration was accurate when published, states frequently change their registration requirements. Therefore, in order to be sure that you have the most complete and accurate information, you must contact the board of bar examiners in each of the states in which you plan to seek admission to the bar to verify whether early registration is required. You can also obtain information about state bar admission requirements from the following American Bar Associations website:

<https://www.abanet.org/legaled/baradmissions/bar.html>.

Alabama: Students must file a law student registration. There is a sliding scale filing fee that increases the later a student files the form, starting as low as \$10. **State Bar Examiner's Office:** www.alabar.org, (334) 269-1515.

California: Students must file a law student registration form. It is least expensive if it is filed within the first 90 days of starting law school. Applicants are encouraged to file the moral character application at the beginning of the third year of law school. **State Bar Examiner's Office:** www.calbar.org, (415) 538-2300.

Florida: First-year students are encouraged to register by January 15, 2010 in order to pay a reduced filing fee of \$75. If filed by March 15, 2010 there is a reduced rate of \$300. After March 15, students must pay the full registration fee. Please note: Students registering early in law school are required to convert their registration into a regular application during their third year of law school, at which time the \$375 converter fee is due. **State Bar Examiner's Office:** www.floridabarexam.org, (850) 487-1292.

Georgia: Students must file Applications for the Certification of Fitness to Practice Law and these must be received approximately 8 months prior to the exam. Students cannot file exam applications until the certification has been issued. Later applications are accepted with late fees. **State Bar Examiner's Office:** www.gabaradmissions.org, (404) 656-3490.

Illinois: First-year students must file a law student registration form by March 1, 2010 of the first year of law school. Later applications are accepted with higher fees. Applications must be filed electronically. **State Bar Examiner's Office:** www.ibaby.org, (217) 522-5917.

Iowa: First-year students must file law student registration forms by November 1, 2010. Later registration is accepted with sliding scale late fees. **State Bar Examiner's Office:** www.iowacourts.gov, (515) 725-8029.

Missouri: There is no mandatory law student registration. Law students may, however, seek an early character and fitness determination by filing the Application for Character and Fitness Report during the first or second year but prior to the last year of law school. The earlier you file, the lower the application fee. Otherwise the Application for Character and Fitness Report and Application for Bar Examination must be filed concurrently. **State Bar Examiner's Office:** www.mble.org, (573) 751-9814.

North Dakota: Registration of law students is required. Law student registration fees are least expensive if registration form is filed by October 1st of the second year of law school or within 14 months after beginning law school. **State Bar Examiner's Office:** www.sband.org, (701) 328-4201.

Ohio: Students must file both an Application to Register and an Application to Take the Bar Exam. The Application to Register must be filed by November 15th of the second year of law school. **State Bar Examiner's Office:** www.sconet.state.oh.us, (614) 387-9340.

Oklahoma: Law student registration fees are least expensive if registration form is filed prior to October 15th of the second year of law school. Later applications are accepted with late fees. **State Bar Examiner's Office:** www.okbbe.com, (405) 416-7075.

Virginia: Students are encouraged to file a character and fitness certification. The fee is least expensive if the form is filed within 14 months of the start of law school. Later forms are accepted with higher filing fees. **State Bar Examiner's Office:** www.vbbe.state.va.us, (804) 367-0412.

Please contact Randi Friedman in the Office of Career Services at (617) 373-3707, or ra.friedman@neu.edu if you have any questions.