
Name of Responding Law School

Name and Title of Respondent

**Request for Information about Your Law School's Engagement
with the New York State Bar Admission Requirement Effective in 2019**

In December 2015, the New York State Court of Appeals promulgated 22 NYCRR § 520.18 (<https://www.nycourts.gov/ctapps/520rules10.htm#B18>), creating a new requirement for admission to the New York bar, effective for this year's graduates. The Rule provides five pathways for meeting the requirement. One is an option if the law school has (1) "developed a plan identifying and incorporating into its curriculum the skills and professional values that, in the school's judgment, are required for its graduates' basic competence and ethical participation in the legal profession, as required by American Bar Association Standards and Rules of Procedure for the Approval of Law Schools Standard 302(b), (c) and (d)," and (2) "made this plan publicly available on the law school's website." See <https://www.nybarexam.org/Skills/skills.htm>.

We are trying to learn about any changes in legal education in response to the new requirement. We would greatly appreciate whatever information you could provide, without undue effort. Even a "yes or no" answer to one or more of these questions would be instructive, although of course more detail would be welcome. We will maintain whatever level of confidentiality about any response that you prefer, from utilizing it solely as background for our own analysis, to anonymous inclusion in part or whole in any informal report we may produce.

Thank you so much for your participation, however preliminary or summary. This is obviously only a starting point for what may become in the future a more substantial assessment of whether changed bar admission standards can, do, or should affect law school decision-making and priorities. However, we hope that even this abbreviated inquiry will contribute to improved understanding between the bench and bar, on one hand, and legal educators, on the other, about the critically important topic of lawyers' professional competence and identity and how to achieve it.

1. **Process:** Overall, how engaged has your faculty been with the new requirement – how active in planning or implementing any new educational efforts in response to it? Has the new requirement been addressed at a faculty colloquium or meeting, in addition to whatever process was used to adopt any curricular changes? Did your school solicit the views of students/alums/board members/your local legal community on proposals for change, and if so, did you encounter resistance, skepticism, enthusiasm, etc.?

2. **Adjustment in educational program** to accommodate the new requirement. We have reviewed the formal prerequisites for fulfillment of the requirement that are described in the posted plans, but wonder if, in light of the new requirement, your school has made or is considering explicit changes in student advising materials or practices (beyond what is available in publications or on the website), or in any specific communications with applicants or admitted students. Would you say that there has been a significant allocation or re-allocation of tangible resources – faculty time, administrative time, financial support, added courses, changes in course objectives and coverage, etc. – specifically directed to ensuring that graduates will satisfy the new bar admission standard? If so, has this had much impact on other components of your law school's educational program?

(→ over to respond)