

PALAU BAR EXAMINATION—FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Application Process

Who takes the Palau Bar Exam?

Most individuals who take the exam either live or practice in Palau.

What do I need to submit to take the Palau Bar Exam?

An applicant to the Palau Bar must: (1) complete a character and fitness questionnaire; (2) provide a certificate of good standing from each jurisdiction(s) in which the applicant is admitted to practice and, if not a member of any bar, a letter from the dean or dean's designee of the applicant's law school attesting to the applicant's good moral character; (3) not have been convicted of a felony, or if convicted, the applicant must have been granted a full pardon; (4) provide a certificate of graduation from an accredited law school; and (5) complete Form C of the Admissions Application.

Can I practice law in Palau without taking the Palau Bar Exam?

Yes, if you fit within one of two recognized exceptions. The first exception is for recent law school graduates. Specifically, within five (5) years of law school graduation, any law school graduate who otherwise meets all of the requirements of Rule 7(a) of the Palau Bar Admissions Committee (PBAC) Policies and Rules of Admission and who is employed by the

Republic of Palau National Government, or any state or other governmental entity of the Republic of Palau, or the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation, may be admitted to practice law in Palau for five (5) years without taking the Palau Bar Exam.

To practice law under this exception, the employee must act only within the scope of employment and must remain under the supervision of an attorney who is an active member of the Palau Bar and who has been in the active practice of law for at least two years.

The second exception applies to any attorney who has been in active practice of law at any time within the five (5) years immediately preceding the date of salaried employment with the Palau National Government, or other similar Palauan state or governmental entity. The attorney may practice law in Palau without taking the Palau Bar Exam for five (5) years. Any practice of law after the expiration of this five (5) year period, or on behalf of any non-governmental person or entity at any time, constitutes the unauthorized practice of law.

How much does it cost to be Admitted without taking the Examination?

The application fee is \$250 for those applying for admission without taking the examination. More specific information regarding these exceptions and their requirements may be found in the PBAC's

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Policies and Rules of Admission on the Court's website:

<https://palaucourts.gov.pw>.

After the initial five-year period, can I be admitted on motion?

No. After the initial five-year period has expired, attorneys are required to either take the Palau Bar Examination or discontinue their practice in Palau.

What is an accredited law school?

An accredited law school is one accredited by the prevailing accrediting agency of the jurisdiction. For law schools located in the U.S., the school must be ABA- accredited and/or accredited by the relevant education accrediting body of that state. For law schools outside the U.S., the school must be accredited by an agency of that jurisdiction. The applicant should also provide a copy of his/her diploma and a transcript.

How can I obtain an application for the Palau Bar Examination?

The application forms can be downloaded from our website:

<https://palaucourts.gov.pw>.

The forms can be accessed from the PBAC's tab on the home page. If you are unable to download a copy of the forms, send a letter requesting that the forms be mailed to you and providing an address where you would like the forms sent with a check or money order for \$10.00 payable to the "Clerk of Courts, Supreme Court of

Palau" and we will mail the forms to you. Mail your request to: Chief Appellate Clerk Vernice Rechebei, P.O. Box 248, Koror, Palau 96940.

Applications may also be obtained in person from the Clerk of Court's Office in Koror or Melekeok.

How do I apply to take the Bar Examination?

To apply to take the Bar Examination, submit all necessary application forms to pbac.submissions@palausupremecourt.net and pay an application fee of \$300.00 made payable to the Supreme Court of Palau. The application fee shall be paid and the application filed at least forty-five (45) days before the date of the next bar examination.

When is the Palau Bar Examination offered?

The Exam is offered in July and, starting in 2027, also in February each year in Guam. The Palau Essay Examination may also be offered on other dates in Palau.

Should I begin the application process before I graduate from law school?

The application must be submitted at least forty-five (45) days before the date of the next examination. While you are not prohibited from applying while you are in law school, it may be easier to wait until after graduation because you will be required to show proof of graduation to take the exam. As the application is relatively uncomplicated, it is preferable that you collect the required materials and

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submit them all in one package.

How much does it cost to take the Palau Bar Examination?

The application fee is \$300.00. This fee helps defray the cost for purchasing, administering, and grading the NextGen UBE, the Palau-based Essay Examination, for background checks, postage, and other administrative costs.

Do I have to pay the application fee again if I have previously applied for the Palau Bar?

Yes. Application fees paid for one exam will not be applied to future exams.

Does admission to the Palau Bar qualify me to work as a lawyer in the U.S.?

Admission to the Palau Bar only qualifies individuals to practice before the courts of the Republic of Palau. Palau does not have any reciprocal agreements with states in the U.S. Individuals must inquire with the specific U.S. jurisdictions of their interest to determine whether passage of the Palau Bar would permit them to practice there.

The Palau Bar Examination

What are the components of the Palau Bar Exam?

Admission to the Palau Bar by examination requires a passing score on the NextGen UBE, the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE), and the Palauan-based Essay Examination (PEE).

What is the NextGen UBE?

The NextGen UBE tests a broad range of foundational lawyering skills including business association and relationships; civil procedure; constitutional law; criminal law and constitutional protections of accused persons; evidence; real property and torts.

It focuses on a core set of legal concepts and principles essential to entry-level practice. These include legal research; legal writing; issue spotting and analysis; investigation and evaluation; client counseling and advising; negotiation and dispute resolution, and client relationship and management.

Select American Bar Association (ABA) Rules of Professional Conduct will also be tested.

From July 2026 to July 2028, family law and trust and estates will appear in a performance task and may be included in integrated question sets.

The NextGen UBE features three broad categories of question types:

Multiple-Choice Questions:

Approximately 40% of the exam time will be devoted to standalone multiple-choice questions with between four and six answer options and one or more correct answers. Initially, many of these questions will closely resemble Multistate Bar

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Examination (MBE) questions; this will ensure stability between scores for the current and NextGen bar exams. In future administrations, the variety of multiple-choice question types will increase. Note that some multiple-choice questions may also appear in the integrated question sets and longer writing tasks, which are described below.

Integrated Question Sets:

Just over a quarter of the exam time will be devoted to integrated question sets. Each of these sets is based on a common fact scenario and may include some legal resources (e.g., excerpts of statutes or judicial opinions) and/or supplemental documents (e.g., a police report or excerpt from a deposition) and include a mixture of multiple-choice, medium-answer, and short-answer questions. In addition to testing doctrinal law, some integrated question sets will be focused on drafting or editing a legal document; other sets will be focused on counseling and/or dispute resolution.

Performance Tasks:

Approximately a third of the exam time will be devoted to performance tasks.

These tasks, like current Multistate Performance Test (MPT) questions, will require examinees to demonstrate their ability to use fundamental lawyering skills in realistic situations, completing tasks that a beginning lawyer should be able to accomplish. These tasks may feature areas of doctrinal law, with accompanying legal resources, not included in the

Foundational Concepts and Principles. These areas of doctrinal law might include, for example, Trusts and Estates, Intellectual Property, or Administrative Law. One of the longer performance tasks will include several multiple-choice questions and short constructed response questions focused on research skills, followed by a longer writing assignment.

The NextGen UBE will be administered in Guam over the course of one and a half days (two three-hour sessions on Day 1, one three-hour session on Day 2).

A minimum score of 612 is required on the NextGen UBE.

More Information regarding the NextGen UBE and how it is scored can be found at National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) website www.ncbex.org/nextgen-ube.

What is the Palauan-based Essay Examination?

The Palauan-based Essay Examination tests knowledge of Palauan law. Questions may cover customary law, ethics, land law, the Palauan Constitution, the Palau National Code, the Compact of Free Association, rules (such as the Rules of Civil Procedure, Criminal Procedure, Evidence and Appellate Procedure), and case law from the Palauan courts, or any other source of law in Palau.

A minimum score of 65 is required on the Palauan-based Essay Examination to be admitted to the Palau Bar.

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Is there a dress code for the Bar Examination?

No. There is no dress code for the Palau Bar Examination.

Are scores from other jurisdictions accepted in Palau?

Applicants who, within the past five (5) years, have taken either the NextGen UBE or the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE), the Multistate Essay Examination (MEE), the Multistate Performance Test (MPT), or Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE) in any state or territory of the United States or in the District of Columbia and obtained a score on one or more of the examinations that would have been deemed a passing grade on the Palau Bar Examination, may have that score transferred and counted toward their Palau Bar Examination score.

Provided, however, that applicants must have a passing score on either the NextGen UBE or each of these four tests to be excused from taking the NextGen UBE. In other words, the applicant must have a passing score on the MBE, MEE, MPT, and MPRE to be excused from taking the NextGen UBE.

Commencing in 2026, Palau will only administer the NextGen UBE examination on Guam; Palau will no longer administer the MBE, MEE, or MPT tests, but will accept the transfer of certified passing scores on any of these examinations to satisfy the requirements of this Rule. The MRPE is administered by the NCBE.

Transfer of certified passing scores on the MPRE will be accepted.

Applicants are required to provide evidence of the score from the jurisdiction in which the examination was taken.

The following constitutes a passing score: (1) A score of at least 75 on the MPRE. If an applicant has not yet passed the MPRE, a separate application is required to take that examination. The application for the MPRE must be submitted directly to the National Conference of Bar Examiners, **and** (2) A score of at least 120 on the MBE, 65 on the MEE and 65 on the MPT, or a combined total of 250 on the MBE, MEE, and MPT; or (3) A score of at least 612 on the NextGen UBE.

All applicants are required to take and pass the Palauan-based Essay Examination.

How do I transfer my passing MBE and MPRE scores to Palau?

All MBE and MPRE score service requests such as transferring scores to another jurisdiction, obtaining your test results, etc., must be submitted through an examinee's NCBE account. If you don't have an NCBE account, please go to the NCBE website, www.ncbex.org, and create one.

NCBE is authorized to perform MBE score services for only some U.S. Jurisdictions.

The list of those jurisdictions is available on the MBE FAQs page. A fee is required for each transaction. Each score transfer or

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score release is considered a separate transaction.

This fee may be paid online (MasterCard or Visa only). Payment by check must be mailed to NCBE with a printout of the confirmation page at the end of either the MBE or MPRE Score Services Request Form and may significantly delay the processing of score services.

No score services will be performed until credit card information is processed or until a check is received with a printout of the confirmation page. Refunds will not be provided for any reason.

It is the examinee's responsibility to read the instructions carefully before requesting any score services and to verify that he or she has provided the correct information.

How do I transfer my passing state essay scores to Palau?

Request a score transfer directly from the state or territorial jurisdiction where the Essay or Combined MBE/Essay Examination was taken and have it sent to: Chief Appellate Clerk Vernice Rechebei, P.O. Box 248, Koror, Palau 96940. Each jurisdiction's bar admission office contact information can be found on the home page of the NCBE website.

Are MBE, MEE, MPT, MPRE, or NextGen UBE scores more than five years old accepted?

No.

Is the Palau-based Essay Exam offered in the United States?

No. The Palau-based Essay Examination is only offered in Guam and Palau.

Preparing for the Bar Examination

What should I study for the Palauan-based Essay Exam?

To prepare for the Palau portion of the exam, you are responsible for studying all Palauan case law. Questions may cover customary law, land law, the Palau Constitution, the Palau National Code, the Compact of Free Association, case law from the Palauan courts, and any other source of law in Palau.

Are there any resources to use in studying for the Palauan-based Essay Exam?

All the materials necessary to study for the Palauan-based Essay Examination are available for purchase from the Palau Supreme Court. Applicants may purchase copies of the latest law digest from the law librarian. The digest is a compilation of all headnotes from the cases in the reporters covered by that digest.

Reporters are also available, which include published decisions from the Supreme Court of Palau. Please inquire with the law librarian at the Court's address and phone number regarding the costs of reporters or of copies of rules, etc.

These materials are also available free of

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charge to the public for review in the law library at the Supreme Court in Palau. Please be advised that the library is open to the public from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and can be kept open for a fee at other times, with prior arrangement. The materials may also be available in some law libraries in the U.S. and the Pacific Rim, including the Guam Law Library, Georgetown International Law Library, the Columbia Law Library, and the Northwestern Law Library. Please check with your local library to determine their holdings.

Copies of past Palau-based Essay Exams will also be sent out to applicants as another resource material.

Is the Constitution of Palau available online?

The Constitution of Palau is available online at: [Constitution](#).

Do I need to study the laws of any particular U.S. state?

The Palau Bar Examination does not test on laws specific to any U.S. state. For subjects generally governed by state law in the U.S. (e.g., real property), the graders use the prevailing common law principles and do not require specific knowledge of the laws of any state.

How difficult is the Palauan Bar Exam compared to bar exams offered in the United States?

The difficulty of the exam often depends on the individual's level of preparation.

Applicants should understand that not only will they be tested on their understanding of Palau law, but they will also be examined on their knowledge of those aspects of U.S. and common law appearing on the NextGen UBE. The Palau Bar Examination is not generally considered any easier than exams offered in other jurisdictions.

Are there tutors or bar review programs available for the Palauan-based Essay Exam?

The Court has not prepared any study aids and is not aware of any bar review programs. Further, the Court does not make any recommendations regarding tutors or study programs for the Exam.

Are there any resources to use in studying for the NextGen UBE?

As with prior versions of the Universal Bar Examination (UBE), the NCBE website, www.ncbex.org/nextgen-ube, offers certain study aids and a software preview. The Court believes there are bar review programs or study programs available.

However, the Court does not make any recommendations regarding tutors or study programs for the Exam.

Unsuccessful Applicants

What happens if I fail the exam?

If an applicant fails the exam, he or she will receive a letter detailing which portion of

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the exam was failed. The letter will also include information about reapplying to take the exam.

Can I appeal the grades I receive?

No. There is no appeal process offered for the Palau Bar Exam.

Can I review the Palau-based Essay questions and answers?

The Palau-based essay questions and answers are not available for public review.

Can I review the NextGen UBE questions and answers?

The NCBE offers certain score services. The unsuccessful applicant should consult the NCBE website, www.ncbex.org, to determine if his or her answers may be reviewed.

Additional Information

What is the mailing address of the Palau Supreme Court?

The mailing address for the Court is:

Supreme Court of Palau
P.O. Box 248
Koror, Palau 96940

If you wish to send items using mailing services that need a street address, such as Federal Express or DHL, the street address is:

Palau Supreme Court
Judiciary Complex in Koror
Intersection of Main Road & M Dock Road
Koror, Palau 96940

How long does it take for materials to reach Palau via the U.S. Postal Service?

A minimum of two weeks is a good estimate of the amount of time it takes for items to arrive in Palau, if sent First Class using the U.S. Postal Service. As with anything sent via the mail, please allow ample time to ensure timely receipt.

Whom do I contact with other questions?

For further information or questions regarding the Palau Bar Examination, you may contact the Chief Appellate Clerk by e-mail vrechebei@palausupremecourt.net or by phone at (680) 767-1000 ext. 5294.

Where can I get more information on Palau?

The Palau Visitor's Authority website at www.pristineparadisepalau.com is a good source of information.

How do I receive a certificate of good standing as a member of the Palau Bar?

To receive a certificate of good standing, send a letter requesting the certificate and a check or money order for \$50.00 made payable to the "Clerk of Courts, Supreme Court of Palau." The mailing address is:

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