



Local law schools release bar exam results

By Lyle Moran, The Daily Transcript
Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Both University of San Diego School of Law and California Western School of Law graduates passed the California State Bar exam administered in July at a rate exceeding the state average for first-time takers from ABA-accredited law schools in the state.

For USD Law, 73 percent, or 173 of 238, of its first-time takers passed the exam. California Western first-time takers passed at a rate of 71.2 percent.

Statewide, 69 percent of first-time takers from ABA-accredited law schools in the state passed the exam and 48.6 percent of all 8,504 applicants passed the exam.

Overall, more than 125 California Western alumni passed the bar exam.

It was the 13th time in 14 years that the school's law graduates have met or exceeded the statewide average for first-time takers from ABA-accredited law schools.

California Western recently held a celebration breakfast at Marriott Marquis hotel where it honored the more than 60 graduates before they took the Oath of Professional Conduct and were sworn into the federal and state bars together on Wednesday, Dec. 3.

First-time takers from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law passed the exam at a 45 percent rate, while the school's first-time takers rate for all July bar exams, including out-of-state takers, was 50 percent.

The pass rate for first-time takers dropped about 7 percent between the July 2013 and July 2014 administrations, while Thomas Jefferson's rate dropped by 5 percent between the two exams.

The three-day general bar examination is given twice a year in February and July. The exam consists of three sections: a multiple-choice Multistate Bar Examination (MBE), six essay questions and two performance tests that are designed to assess an applicant's ability to apply general legal knowledge to practical tasks.