

Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar
625 South College Street
Springfield, IL 62704
Telephone: 217-522-5917
Fax: 217-522-3728; 9327

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL AUTHORITY

NOTICE TO APPLICANT: This section of this form is to be completed by you. The remainder of the form is to be completed by the qualified professional who is recommending accommodations on the Illinois Bar Examination for you on the basis of a disability. Please read, complete, and sign below before submitting this form to the qualified professional for completion of the remainder of this form.

Applicant's full name: _____

Date(s) of evaluation/treatment: _____

Applicant's date of birth: _____

I give permission to the qualified professional completing this form to release the information requested on the form, and I request the release of any additional information regarding my disability or accommodations previously granted that may be requested by the Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar or consultant(s) of the Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar.

Signature of applicant: _____ Date: _____

NOTICE TO QUALIFIED PROFESSIONAL: The above-named person is requesting accommodations on the Illinois Bar Examination. All such requests must be supported by a comprehensive evaluation report from the qualified professional who conducted an individualized assessment of the applicant and is recommending accommodations on the Illinois Bar Examination on the basis of a physical or mental disability. The Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar also requires the qualified professional to complete this form. If any of the information requested in this form is fully addressed in the comprehensive evaluation report, you may respond by citing the specific page and paragraph where the answer can be found. Please attach a copy of the evaluation report and all records and test results on which you relied in making the diagnosis and recommending accommodations for the Illinois Bar Examination.

The provision of reasonable accommodations is based on assessment of the current impact of the disability on the specific testing activity. The Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar generally requires documentation from an evaluation conducted within the past year because of the changing manifestations of many physical or mental disabilities. Older evaluation reports may suffice if supplemented by an update of the diagnosis, current level of functioning, and a rationale for each recommended accommodation or an explanation of why the report continues to be relevant in its entirety. The Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar may forward this information to one or more qualified professionals for an independent review of the applicant's request. Type or legibly print your responses to the items below. Return this completed form, the comprehensive evaluation report, and relevant records to the applicant for submission to the Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar.

This form must be completed by a professional who is qualified to diagnose the applicant's disability and familiar with its current impact on the applicant's ability to perform on the Illinois Bar Examination. The recommendations for nonstandard testing accommodation must be SPECIFIC, and diagnoses must support a CURRENT need for the accommodation. A description of the Illinois Bar Examination is set forth at the end of this form. Attach and sign extra pages to complete your answers as necessary.

1. Please provide your name, address, email address, phone number, and fax number and describe the professional qualifications (terminal degree, clinical specialty, licensure, etc.) that enable you to act in the capacity of a medical or psychological authority re the applicant's physical or mental impairment. A recent copy of your curriculum vitae must be attached.

2. Advise the date(s) on which you examined the applicant.

3. Describe the nature and severity of the applicant's physical or mental impairment and discuss its effects on the applicant's ability to take the bar examination under standard testing conditions.

4. Provide the complete ICD (International Classification of Diseases) diagnosis of the physical impairment or the complete multiaxial DSMIV or DSMIVTR (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders) diagnosis of the mental impairment, including all relevant severity and course specifiers and a rating of the Global Assessment of Functioning.

5. List the tests, studies and/or procedures used to diagnose the physical or mental impairment and attach a copy of all pertinent medical or psychological records, including results of laboratory studies, diagnostic tests, and clinical procedures used to determine the presence and severity of impairment. In the case of psychological and psychoeducational testing, please attach all raw data and psychological reports pertinent to the impairment.

6. Advise with specificity the nonstandard testing accommodations you recommend for the applicant. Explain in detail how each accommodation relates to the applicant's physical or mental impairment and why each accommodation is needed. In each instance, support your recommendation with specific test results or clinical observations. If your recommendation includes an extension of the customary examination time, SPECIFY the amount of extra time recommended on each segment of the examination and describe your rationale for the amount of time recommended.

Date of Execution: _____ Signature: _____

Description of the Illinois Bar Examination

The Illinois bar examination is a timed, 2-day examination. For July 2024, the exam is planned for an in-person administration. In that environment, the standard applicant appears in person and is seated in a large room with the ability to get up during certain sections of the exam.

On the first day, standard applicants use their laptop computers to type essay answers. The essay answers are in two formats. For the first three hours of the morning session, they complete two Multistate Performance Test (MPT) tasks (which is a skills-based essay). There is a one-hour break for lunch. During the afternoon session, applicants spend 3 hours total answering 6 essay questions.

On the second day, standard applicants answer 200 multiple choice questions posed on the standardized Multistate Bar Examination (MBE). This exam is administered on paper via a scantron sheet. The morning session is three hours, followed by a one-hour break for lunch. The afternoon session is three hours.