

## Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar

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To: Unsuccessful July 2012 Illinois Bar applicants

*One-Day Examinees* – If you took only the written examination, consisting of the Illinois and Multistate Essay Examinations (IEE and MEE) and the Multistate Performance Test (MPT), you must have attained a written scale score of 132 to pass.

*Two-Day Examinees* – If you took both days of the examination, which included the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE), you must have attained a total scale score of 264 to pass. *Total scale score = MBE scale score + written scale score.*

### Understanding Your Score

**Total Scale Score.** The total scale score is always a whole number. In computing the total scale score, the sum of the MBE and written scale scores is rounded up.

**Integrated Score.** Illinois employs an integrated scoring system, which means that you may achieve the minimum passing score of 264 by any combination of MBE and written examination scores and need not have obtained a minimum score on either part of the exam. You may not pass the exam in parts – a score of 132 or above on one part of the exam does not mean that you passed that part of the exam and need not retest on it.

**Written Examination.** The 3 IEE and 6 MEE essay answers are weighted equally; the MPT answer is weighted 1.5 times that of an individual essay. Each essay and MPT answer receives a raw score on a 0 to 5 point scale. The answers are scored on a relative basis with there being no passing or failing score. Thus, your raw score for a particular answer reflects your performance relative to that of the other examinees on that particular question. The sum of your 10 raw scores becomes your 'written raw score.'

To compare and interpret the results of the written exam, the written raw scores are scaled to the MBE, which is an equated test (*see below*) and statistically reliable. Accordingly, your written raw score has been converted to a 'written scale score.' As a result of scaling to an equated test, the written exam scores have been adjusted for differences in exam difficulty, and a given written scale score indicates about the same level of proficiency regardless of the exam administration at which it was earned.

**MBE.** Your MBE score is a *scale score*. The number of questions answered correctly is the *raw score*. The MBE raw scores of all test-takers across the jurisdictions, through a statistical process called scaling, are transformed onto a different score scale with the raw scores converted to scale scores. This different score scale is derived from yet another statistical process called equating, which is used to adjust for differences in difficulty across various MBE test forms. As a result of these statistical processes, a given MBE scale score indicates about the same level of proficiency regardless of the examination on which it was earned.

**Finality of Bar Examination Results.** Bar examination results are final and non-appealable. The Board of Admissions does not entertain requests for review, regrading or other relief. Please be assured that the Board has already followed regrading procedures recommended by psychometricians (statisticians who specialize in testing procedures) to ensure the accuracy of your score.