

The New York Bar Exam: Certification Procedures

In the last session of the last day of the conference, John J. McAlary, Executive Director of the New York State Board of Law Examiners, reviewed the recent changes to the process of certifying graduates to sit the New York bar exam. In 2011, the New York State Court of Appeals made a number of revisions to the requirements which go into effect for students who matriculate after April 1, 2012. Students graduating this year will likely qualify under the old rules, but also receive the benefit of the revised rules. In 2013, the new Law School Certificate of Attendance Form replaced the transcript. Students now complete an online questionnaire during the application process, which is then sent to the law schools for certification, and the law schools then send the certification forms back to NY BOLE. Instructions will be sent to Law Schools along with the certification forms at the end of May, and are due back June 15th – which is a firm deadline!

Mr. McAlary reviewed the petition process for students who do not meet the eligibility requirements, and the changes to the LLM requirements, and the new pro bono requirement for admission to the bar.

NNLSO members may find the following administrative details helpful:

- If the school certifies the student has completed all degree requirements, but the degree has not been conferred, after the degree conferral, the law school should send NY BOLE a letter, not a transcript.
- LLM certifications require a certificate of attendance AND a transcript
- Mr. McAlary's staff requested the certification letters and handwriting samples NOT be stapled together.
- If possible, students should complete the handwriting sample with the bar code and BOLE ID preprinted, rather than blank form available on the web site.