

## Waiver for Graduates of Non-ABA Law Schools

**The Standard Educational Requirement:** A candidate is eligible to take the Maryland Bar examination only if he or she has completed the pre-legal education necessary to meet the minimum requirements for admission to an American Bar Association (ABA) approved law school and has earned the juris doctor (or its equivalent) from a law school approved by the ABA. (See Bar Admission Rules 3 and 4 and the Annotated Code of Maryland, Business Occupations and Professions, Section 10-207 (d).)

**Waiver of the Standard Educational Requirement:** The State Board of Law Examiners has the discretion to waive the standard educational requirement for any person who (1) has passed the bar examination of another state and is a member in good standing of the Bar of that state and (2) in the Board's opinion is qualified by reason of education, experience, or both to take the bar examination. (See Bar Admission Rule 4(b).)

### Procedure to Petition for a Waiver

A Petition for a Waiver should be in the form of a letter sent to the administrative office of the State Board of Law Examiners accompanied by the following documents (Photocopies of documents in your possession are not acceptable. You must contact the proper official and request documents authenticated with appropriate seals.):

1. A letter of verification from the proper authority that you have taken and passed the Bar examination in that state (a photocopy is permissible in this case),
2. A current certificate of admission to the Bar of another state from the highest court of that state and a current certificate of good standing issued by the appropriate authority in the state (in many states the certificate of admission and the certificate of good standing are combined in a single document),
3. A detailed description of your pre-legal education indicating the college or university attended, the date of graduation, and the degree obtained; include an official transcript reflecting all of the subjects taken and the number of semester hours of credit earned,
4. The name and location of the law school attended, the date of your law school graduation, and verification of your degree in the form of an official transcript of your law school education,
5. A detailed description of any experience you have in the practice of law.

**All supporting documents must accompany your petition for a waiver:** Your waiver request will be denied if you fail to submit all required documentation (described above) with your petition for a waiver.

**Transcripts:** If your college or the law school has a policy of not releasing official transcripts to students, you should request that the college or law school send the transcripts directly

to this office. Advise this office in writing that your transcripts will be sent directly to this office by the college or law school.

**Deadlines for Waiver Requests:** The State Board of Law Examiners must have adequate time to review and consider your credentials.

**In order for a waiver request to be considered and acted upon for the bar examination to be held in February, the request for a waiver and all documentation must be received in this office no later than the preceding November 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**For the July examination, the waiver request and all documentation must be received in this office no later than the preceding April 20<sup>th</sup>.**

The waiver request and accompanying documents should be sent to:

STATE BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS  
2011-F Commerce Park Drive  
Annapolis, MD 21401

If you have questions, please call (410) 260-3640.

**Notification of Waiver Approval:** When your file is complete, the State Board of Law Examiners will review it. After a review of the documentation accompanying your request, the State Board of Law Examiners will make its determination and notify you whether you qualify for a waiver. If the Board grants the waiver, the appropriate application forms will be mailed to you with the Board's decision.