

## **NJSBA Works with Legal Community Regarding 2020 Bar Exam**

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the New Jersey State Bar Association's guiding mission has been to help the legal community navigate through uncertainty and find specific strategies to keep moving forward. We believe the newest members of the legal community, the 2020 law school graduates, should receive additional support as they begin their professional journey.

Starting this spring and throughout the summer, the NJSBA has been in continuous communication with its Young Lawyers Division, the Judiciary, the state's law school administrators and its members about the myriad issues recent graduates face and finding ways to help them thrive. While the New Jersey Judiciary has determined that diploma privilege is not a viable path forward at this time, the Association is dedicated to working with the entire legal community to bolster the Class of 2020, now expected to take the bar exam online in October.

As the Judiciary acknowledged, there may not be ideal solution, but here are steps being taken to ensure the October exam is a success:

- The Judiciary recently announced that it has entered into reciprocal agreements for admission with several jurisdictions, including New York, Connecticut, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Ohio, Tennessee, Vermont, and the District of Columbia.
- All law clerks are being given additional time off to study for the bar exam and the NJSBA will be urging private lawyers and law firms to make similar allowances for those sitting for the October exam.
- The Board of Bar Examiners will conduct two mock tests in September as practice sessions for the online exam.
- The state's law schools have said they would make space or technology assistance available to graduates who need support for actually taking the test.
- Anyone else who requires a secure place to take the exam or who is in need of accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act is urged to contact the Board of Bar Examiners to ensure appropriate accommodations can be provided.

The New Jersey State Bar Association's mantra during this public health crisis has been NJSBA: Here For You. We are working on behalf of the entire profession and look forward to working with the Class of 2020 for years to come.