

National Conference of Bar Examiners

2017

YEAR IN REVIEW

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# Letter from the NCBE Board Chair



Hon. Rebecca White Berch (Ret.),  
2017–2018 NCBE Board Chair

NCBE is pleased to present the *2017 Year in Review*. This third edition of the annual *Review* highlights the work of NCBE's volunteers and staff to fulfill NCBE's mission of providing high-quality test products and related services to jurisdictions.

Some readers of this publication may be surprised at the broad range of services that NCBE provides. These services include, among others, educational programming, character and fitness investigations, grading workshops for exam graders, exam-score analysis, data forensics reports for suspected cheating incidents, and the facilitation of communication among jurisdictions on admissions-related subjects. In addition, NCBE provides information and assistance to jurisdictions that are considering adopting the Uniform Bar Examination and support to those jurisdictions that already administer it.

NCBE's work is never static or dull. NCBE is always looking for ways to improve its products and services. Current priority initiatives for NCBE include the provision of the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination on a computer-based platform and undertaking a future-focused study of the bar exam through its recently created Testing Task Force. You'll hear more about these initiatives in the coming year. NCBE also continually strives to ensure that its test products follow best practices and meet the psychometric standards expected of high-stakes tests used for licensing purposes. Its rigorous test development process, depicted on page 13, is a critical part of that effort.

In the meantime, we hope that you enjoy this overview of NCBE's work in 2017. It provides insight into the time and effort contributed by NCBE's outstanding staff, as well as by the many volunteer lawyers, judges, deans, and law professors who assist the Conference with question drafting and policy making. My fellow Board of Trustees members are also to be commended for their dedication to NCBE.

The bar examination functions as a gatekeeper to the practice of law in our jurisdictions. NCBE's responsibility to create testing products that will assist jurisdictions in determining readiness to practice is a solemn one, requiring NCBE to give its utmost to ensure that those products appropriately assess whether candidates possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities appropriate for those who would call themselves licensed lawyers. This report provides a snapshot of NCBE's work in carrying out this mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca W. Berch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hon. Rebecca White Berch (Ret.)  
2017–2018 NCBE Board Chair

# Letter from the NCBE President



Judith A. Gundersen,  
NCBE President

We are pleased that you're reading our third annual *Year in Review*. While this publication looks back at what we did in 2017, it should also convey to all our stakeholders that NCBE is looking to the *future* with new initiatives aimed at strengthening what is at the core of our mission: service to state Supreme Courts and bar admission authorities in every U.S. jurisdiction.

One of the most important services we provide to jurisdictions is our exams—our four exams are the backbone of the minimal competency determinations that admission boards are tasked with making. Our development process for each exam question involves hands-on drafting, editing, and critiquing by many subject-matter-expert volunteers, NCBE attorney editors, and external reviewers to ensure that every single bar exam question is ready to “count” on an exam form. All our questions are screened for bias and appropriate difficulty. And our Test Operations Department and Testing and Research Department staff members log thousands of hours each year supporting jurisdictions in grading and scoring the exams and in conducting research. Much of this is behind the scenes. The Multistate Essay Examination and the Multistate Performance Test also undergo stakeholder (jurisdiction and policy committee) review before administration. Many of the facts and figures you'll see in this publication reflect the lengthy test development process and how many people are involved therein.

In addition to those volunteers involved in test development through our drafting committees, others serve on our nine policy committees that are tasked with making recommendations to our Board of Trustees on everything from test security policies to the topics and speakers at our educational events to content in the *Bar Examiner*, our quarterly publication.

In short, we are steeped in the greater bar admissions community and rely on the good judgment and different perspectives and experiences of members of our Board of Trustees, bar examiners, admissions staff, Courts, and the faculty, judges, and lawyers who serve on our drafting committees and serve as external question reviewers. It takes a lot of stakeholder involvement to produce the bar exam!

In addition to the test materials NCBE produces, we also support jurisdictions in fulfilling their character and fitness determination responsibilities. A major project for much of our staff in 2017 was the development of our new online character report application aimed at streamlining and enhancing the character and fitness application process for examinees and jurisdictions that use our Investigations Department services. As I write this, the new online application is close to going live. We look forward to providing this enhanced service.

We are heavily invested in collaborating with, educating, and learning from the larger bar admissions and legal education community. We conducted a multiple-choice question writing workshop in Madison in September for faculty who teach MBE subjects, and 380 people attended our Annual Conference in San Diego in May. Our 2017 semiannual MEE and MPT Grading Workshops had a total of over 800 participants either in person, by conference call, or via on-demand video. Our Board members and staff serve on ABA committees, attend the semiannual meetings of state Supreme Court Chief Justices, and are frequent speakers at conferences all over the country.

There were a lot of changes at NCBE in 2017, to be sure. And there will be much to report on in 2018, including the work of our recently established Testing Task Force charged with undertaking a future-oriented study of the bar exam, and the migration of the MPRE to computer-based testing. Plans for expanding our web presence in 2018, as well as offering our quarterly *Bar Examiner* magazine in a digital format, will allow us to communicate more efficiently with our constituents. Our commitment to providing excellent service to jurisdictions, high-quality testing materials for licensure, and exciting and relevant educational programming remains unwavering. To the year in review and the year ahead!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith".

Judith A. Gundersen  
NCBE President

# 2017 Highlights



Seven jurisdictions began administering the **Uniform Bar Examination (UBE)** in 2017; two additional jurisdictions adopted the UBE in 2017 and will begin administering it in 2019.



Judith A. Gundersen was named **NCBE's new President and CEO**. Gundersen, who had served for many years in leadership positions in NCBE's Testing and Test Operations Departments, most recently as Director of Test Operations, succeeds Erica Moeser, who retired in August 2017 after 23 years as President and CEO.



We released **two new study aids**: a second MPRE Online Practice Exam and the new MBE Study Aid, which is organized by subject area.



**The Bar Examiner**, our quarterly magazine covering topics of interest to the bar admissions community, was redesigned with a new look and new content, including a Facts & Figures page and a new section highlighting noteworthy developments in bar admissions and legal education.



We offered **a new training session for law school faculty** on writing high-quality multiple-choice questions to be used for formative assessment.

# What We Do

The National Conference of Bar Examiners, founded in 1931, is a not-for-profit corporation that develops licensing tests for bar admission and provides character and fitness investigation services. NCBE also provides testing, research, and educational services to jurisdictions; provides services to bar applicants on behalf of jurisdictions; and acts as a national clearinghouse for information about the bar examination and bar admissions.

## Our Partnership with Jurisdictions

### Tests and Related Services

- We develop and produce the licensing and professional responsibility tests used by most U.S. jurisdictions for admission to the bar, including the Uniform Bar Examination, which results in score portability.
- We provide support to exam administrators before, during, and after each exam administration.
- We provide training for jurisdiction graders, including grading workshops for the Multistate Essay Examination and the Multistate Performance Test following each exam administration.
- We provide post-exam scoring, score scaling, and data forensics services.
- We provide psychometric consulting and research services.

### Character and Fitness Investigation Services

- We conduct character and fitness investigations on behalf of jurisdictions.
- We offer an online character report application and online access to character and fitness services.

### Professional Support

- We provide financial and staff support for the Council of Bar Admission Administrators (CBAA).
- We host an electronic mailing list for bar admission administrators and maintain a secure website for administrators to access investigation and testing services, educational event registration, and other information.

## Our Support for Applicants

- We offer study aids, both free of charge and for purchase, for all our tests, including online practice exams for the Multistate Bar Examination and the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination.
- We provide score services and other admission-related services to applicants on behalf of jurisdictions.
- We provide NCBE Accounts that offer a one-stop secure web portal for applicants to request and transfer scores, complete character report applications, access online practice exams, and more.

## Our Support for the Bar Admissions Community

- We publish the *Bar Examiner*, our quarterly magazine covering topics of interest to the bar admissions community; the annual *Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements*, with information on bar admission requirements in all U.S. jurisdictions; and other information about the bar admissions process.
- We maintain comprehensive and up-to-date bar admissions information for all U.S. jurisdictions on our website.
- We sponsor a wide range of educational events for jurisdiction bar examiners and bar admission administrators, legal educators, and state Supreme Courts.
- We conduct ongoing research relevant to bar admissions testing and also provide support for graduate student research in this area.



# Our Mission

- to work with other institutions to develop, maintain, and apply reasonable and uniform standards of education and character for eligibility for admission to the practice of law; and
- to assist bar admission authorities by
- providing standardized examinations of uniform and high quality for the testing of applicants for admission to the practice of law,
  - disseminating relevant information concerning admission standards and practices,
  - conducting educational programs for the members and staffs of such authorities, and
  - providing other services such as character and fitness investigations and research.

# Our Vision

The National Conference of Bar Examiners is a leader in the bar admissions community, a community dedicated to protecting the public and safeguarding the justice system. NCBE exists to ensure that members of the legal profession continue to have the competence and the high ethical standards expected of such a valued profession. Therefore, we are dedicated to ensuring that our products and services are of high quality; that they are reliable; and that they are provided to jurisdictions in a competent, courteous, and collaborative manner. As we move forward, it is necessary to be creative in our thinking and innovative in our products and services, while remembering that the delivery of high quality testing products and services deserving of the trust of jurisdictions always forms the foundation of our vision.



# Who We Are

## Our Staff

88

staff members work at NCBE's headquarters in Madison, Wisconsin. Staff members work in the following departments: Corporate, Finance, Information Technology, Investigations, Meetings and Education, Publications, Strategy and Test Security, Test Operations, and Testing and Research.



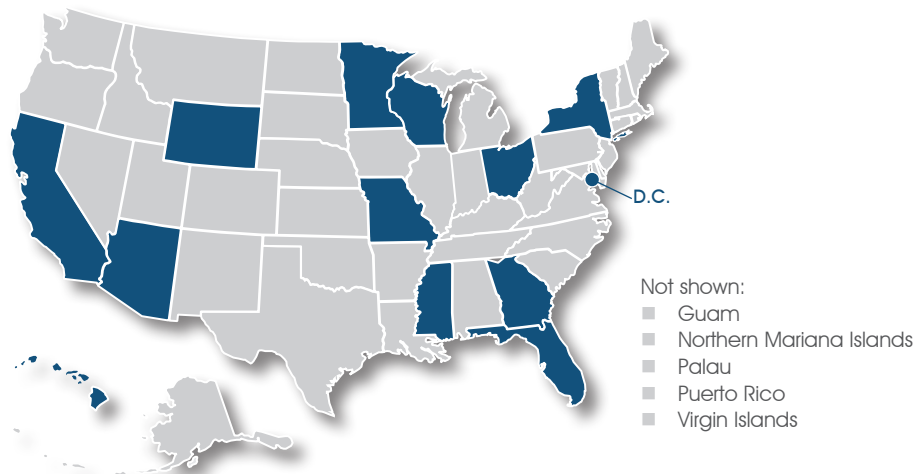
## Our Volunteers

NCBE draws great strength from a diverse group of committed volunteers who serve on its Board of Trustees and its policy and drafting committees.



NCBE is governed by a 12-member Board of Trustees and a president. Trustees have extensive backgrounds in bar admissions and are drawn from a range of jurisdictions.

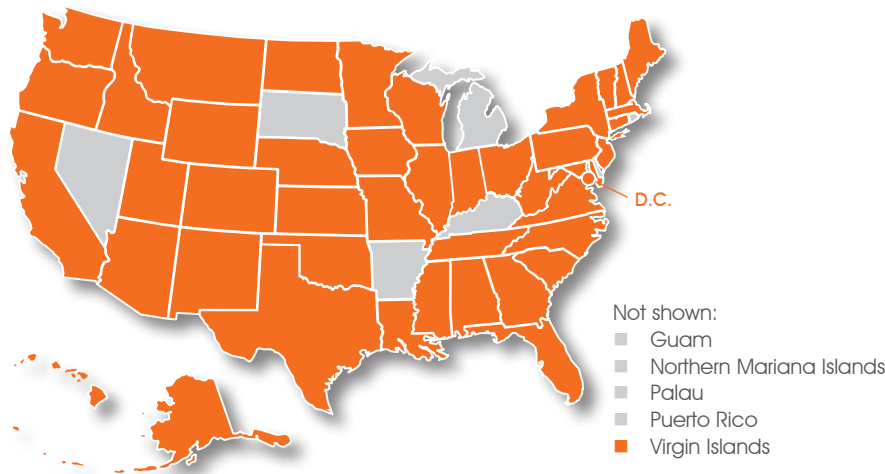
### 2017–2018 Board of Trustees Members' and President's Home Jurisdictions





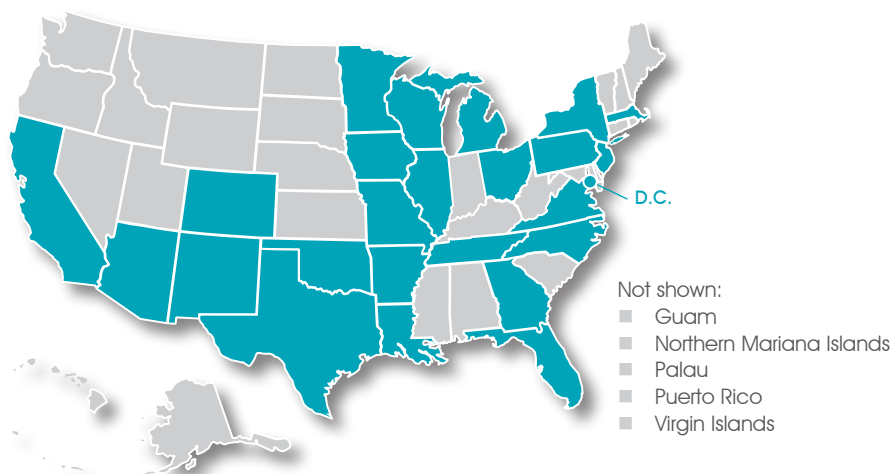
Additionally, we are advised by the 93 members of NCBE’s nine policy committees. In 2017–2018 the committee members, from 45 jurisdictions, include current and former bar examiners, bar admission administrators and staff, justices, and judges. Members are appointed by the chair of the Board of Trustees in consultation with the president and subject to Board of Trustees approval. Each committee is supported by one or more NCBE staff members.

### 2017–2018 Policy Committee Members’ Home Jurisdictions



NCBE exams are written by the 63 members of NCBE’s 10 exam drafting committees: seven MBE committees (one for each subject) and one committee each for the MEE, the MPT, and the MPRE. The 2017–2018 drafting committee members, from 25 jurisdictions, include practicing attorneys, judges, and faculty members from 35 different law schools. Each committee is supported by one or more NCBE staff members, including at least one attorney editor.

### 2017–2018 Drafting Committee Members’ Home Jurisdictions



## Policy Committees

- Character and Fitness Investigations
- Diversity Issues
- Editorial Advisory
- Education
- Multistate Bar Examination
- Multistate Essay Examination/ Multistate Performance Test
- Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination
- Technology
- Special Committee on the Uniform Bar Examination

## Drafting Committees

- Multistate Bar Examination:
  - Civil Procedure
  - Constitutional Law
  - Contracts
  - Criminal Law and Procedure
  - Evidence
  - Real Property
  - Torts
- Multistate Essay Examination
- Multistate Performance Test
- Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination

# Educational Events, Outreach, and Meetings

In 2017 our Meetings and Education Department managed 48 educational events and volunteer meetings. NCBE produces and hosts a wide range of educational events for bar examiners, bar admission administrators, legal educators, judges, and justices. NCBE underwrites all or some of the cost of attendance at these educational events for jurisdictions.

In addition, NCBE staff members travel to provide training and information to jurisdictions and to participate in conferences related to bar admissions and testing. In 2017 we made 24 such outreach trips.

Our Board of Trustees and policy committees meet regularly to evaluate current policies and practices and to recommend changes and improvements. Our drafting committees meet two to three times during the year to write and review exam questions.



## Annual Bar Admissions Conference



### San Diego, California

The Annual Bar Admissions Conference brings together bar admission administrators, bar examiners, board members, and state Supreme Court justices from across the country every spring to discuss current and future issues in testing, character and fitness, and legal education. NCBE covers the full cost of attendance for up to three designated representatives and one state Supreme Court justice from each jurisdiction. The 2017 conference in May was attended by 380 participants from 55 jurisdictions.



# Additional Educational Events

## CBAA Meetings

NCBE sponsors two annual meetings for the Council of Bar Admission Administrators (CBAA). The NCBE/CBAA Annual Meeting and the CBAA Fall Meeting both provide time to conduct CBAA and NCBE business and offer CBAA members opportunities for education and for the exchange of ideas with colleagues from around the country. NCBE covers the full cost of attendance for those serving in CBAA leadership positions or as chairs of CBAA committees.



### NCBE/CBAA Annual Meeting

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

64 participants from 35 jurisdictions attended the NCBE/CBAA Annual Meeting in August 2017.

### CBAA Fall Meeting

Palm Springs, California

85 participants from 40 jurisdictions attended the CBAA Fall Meeting in November 2017.

## Workshops and Seminars



### Grading Workshops

Madison, Wisconsin

Grading Workshops for MEE and MPT graders are offered on the weekends immediately following the bar exam in February and July. In February 2017, 384 graders from 42 jurisdictions participated in the grading workshop—31 in person, 128 by conference call, and 225 by registering to view on-demand video of the February workshop. In July 2017, 424 graders from 41 jurisdictions participated in the grading workshop—58 in person, 140 by conference call, and 226 by registering to view on-demand video of the July workshop. NCBE provided partial sponsorship for all in-person graders.



### Multiple-Choice Question Writing Workshop

Madison, Wisconsin

Writing Multiple-Choice Questions: A Training Session was offered for the first time in 2017. The training session, for tenured law school faculty members who teach core subjects represented on the MBE, is led by law school faculty with experience writing questions for the MBE. The program includes hands-on practice drafting questions for use as formative assessments in law school classes covering core subjects, as well as a review of testing basics. The training session in September 2017 was attended by 37 participants from 23 jurisdictions.



### New Bar Admission Administrators Mini-Seminar

Madison, Wisconsin

The New Bar Admission Administrators Mini-Seminar, held at NCBE's headquarters, is designed to introduce new administrators to significant issues pertaining to bar admissions. NCBE sponsored the full cost of attendance for the 9 participants from 9 jurisdictions at the mini-seminar in September 2017.

# Our Tests

The Multistate Bar Examination (MBE), Multistate Essay Examination (MEE), and Multistate Performance Test (MPT) are administered by user jurisdictions as part of the bar examination in February and July each year. The Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE) is administered by NCBE through its test contractor, the Law School Admission Council (LSAC), three times per year.

Number of jurisdictions that used NCBE exams in 2017

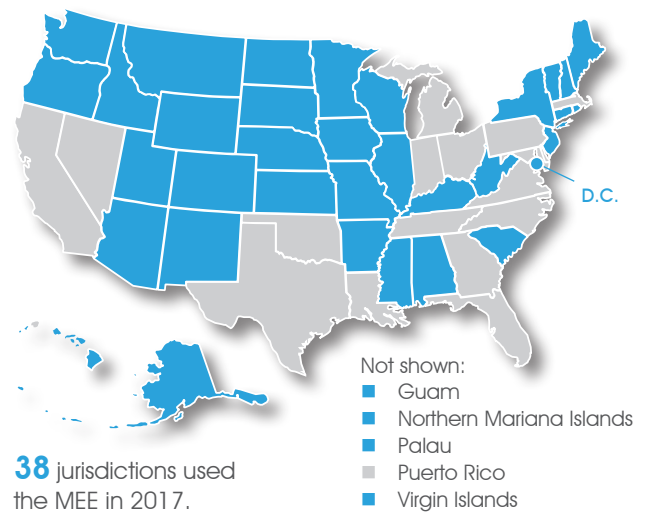
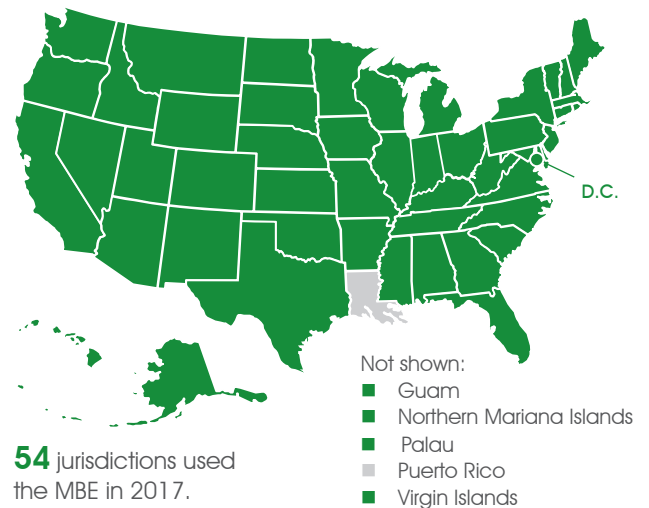


## The Multistate Bar Examination (MBE)

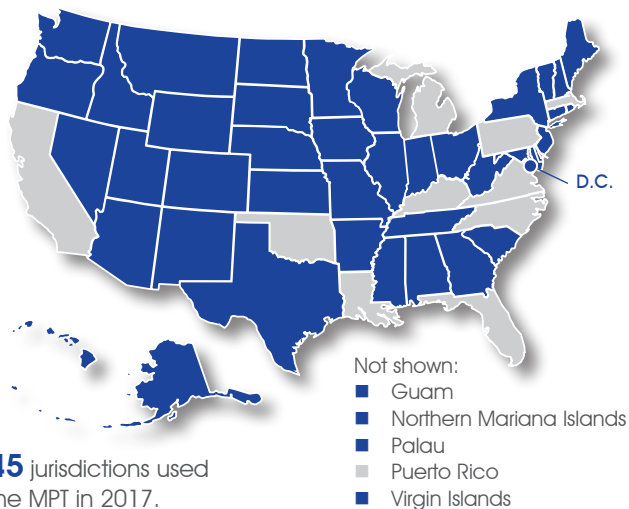
is a six-hour, 200-question multiple-choice examination covering Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Real Property, and Torts. The purpose of the MBE is to assess the extent to which an examinee can apply fundamental legal principles and legal reasoning to analyze given fact patterns.

## The Multistate Essay Examination (MEE)

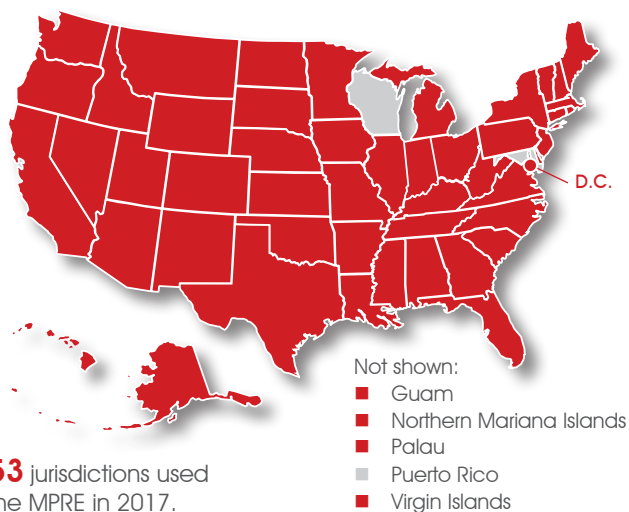
consists of six 30-minute questions. Areas of law tested are Business Associations, Civil Procedure, Conflict of Laws, Constitutional Law, Contracts (including Article 2 [Sales] of the Uniform Commercial Code), Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Family Law, Real Property, Torts, Trusts and Estates, and Article 9 (Secured Transactions) of the Uniform Commercial Code. The purpose of the MEE is to test the examinee's ability to (1) identify legal issues raised by a hypothetical factual situation; (2) separate material which is relevant from that which is not; (3) present a reasoned analysis of the relevant issues in a clear, concise, and well-organized composition; and (4) demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental legal principles relevant to the probable solution of the issues raised by the factual situation. The primary distinction between the MEE and the MBE is that the MEE requires the examinee to demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively in writing.



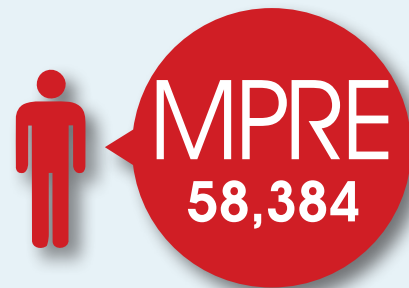
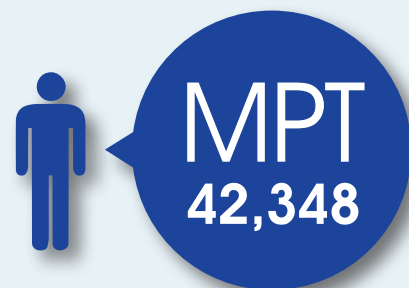
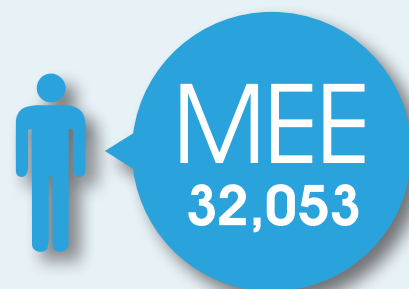
**The Multistate Performance Test (MPT)** consists of two 90-minute tasks requiring the application of fundamental lawyering skills in a realistic situation. Skills tested are factual analysis, legal analysis and reasoning, problem solving, identification and resolution of ethical dilemmas, written communication, and organization and management of a legal task. The MPT is not a test of substantive knowledge. Rather, it is designed to evaluate certain fundamental skills lawyers are expected to demonstrate regardless of the area of law in which the skills are applied.



**The Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE)** is a two-hour, 60-question multiple-choice examination. The purpose of the MPRE is to measure examinees' knowledge and understanding of established standards related to the professional conduct of lawyers.



## Number of Examinees Taking NCBE Exams in 2017

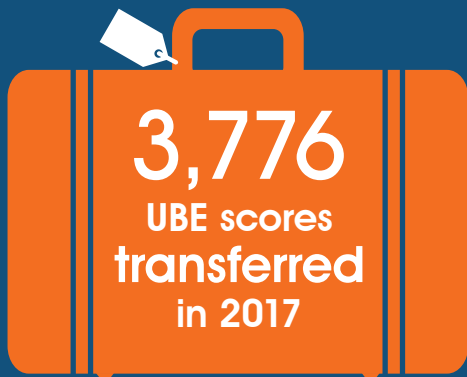
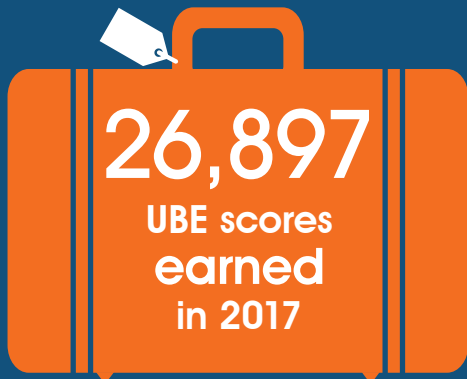


## Our Tests *(continued)*

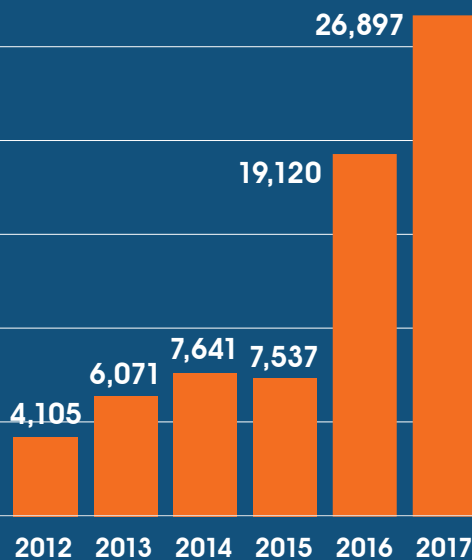
# Uniform Bar Examination

The Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) is uniformly administered, graded, and scored by participating jurisdictions to produce portable scores. The UBE is composed of the MEE, two MPT tasks, and the MBE. Jurisdictions that adopt the UBE may also require applicants to complete a jurisdiction-specific component, such as a course or test on jurisdiction-specific law.

UBE jurisdictions agree to certain administrative policies in order to generate scores that qualify to be certified by NCBE as UBE scores. UBE jurisdictions independently set other policies, such as establishing their own passing scores and determining how long incoming UBE scores will be accepted. Since the UBE's inception, jurisdictions have been actively involved in shaping UBE policies and implementing best practices. Representatives from UBE jurisdictions discuss administrative issues as needed and make recommendations to NCBE's Board of Trustees with respect to policy decisions related to the UBE.



Number of UBE Scores Earned by Year

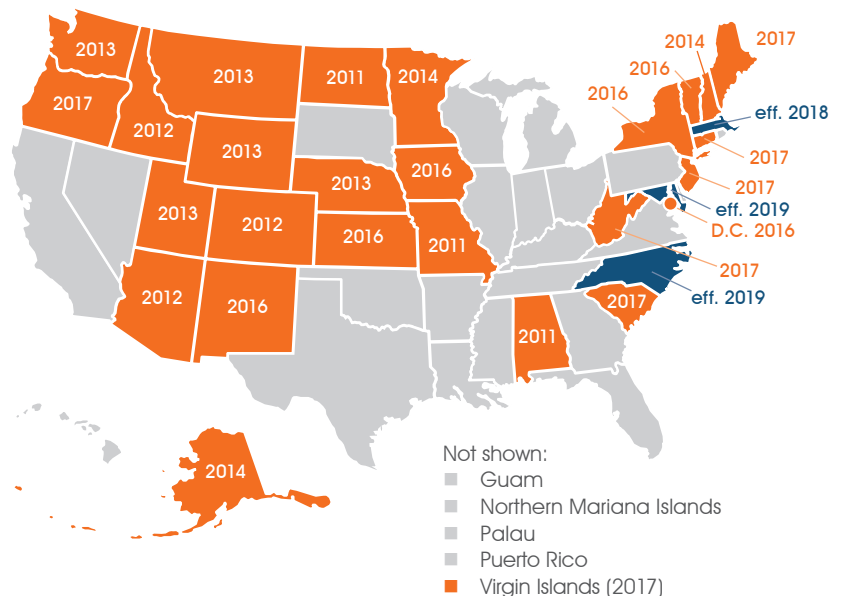


Number of jurisdictions that have adopted the UBE



**27** jurisdictions administered the UBE in 2017.

**3** additional jurisdictions will begin administering the UBE in 2018 and 2019.



*Dates indicate the year each jurisdiction first administered, or will administer, the UBE.*

# Test Development and Production

The test items (questions) for all four of our tests go through multiple stages of drafting, review, and revision by practicing attorneys, judges, law school faculty members, and NCBE’s attorney editors. New items are also slated for pretesting.

*Note: The timeline below is approximate and may vary between tests.*

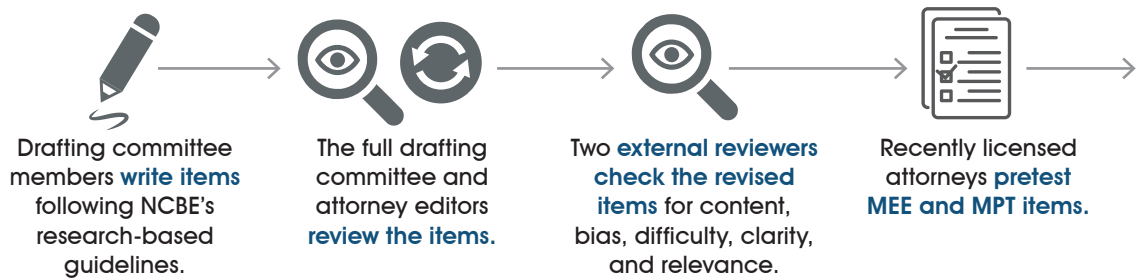


Test items are developed by the **63** members of NCBE’s **10** drafting committees with the support of NCBE’s attorney editors.

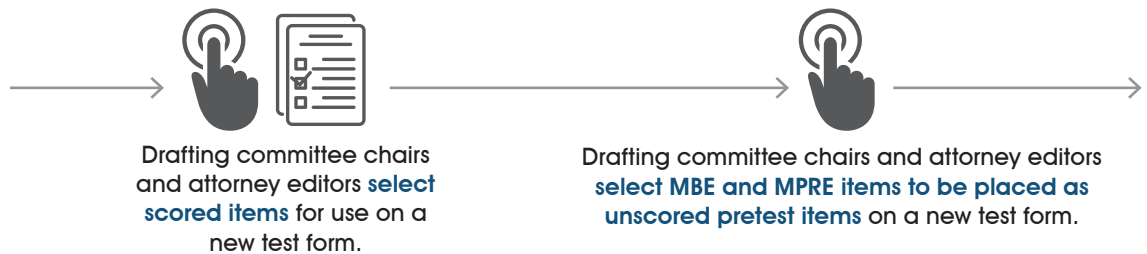


At least **10** people—drafters, external reviewers, and NCBE staff members—review each new test item multiple times.

**3 years**  
before  
the exam



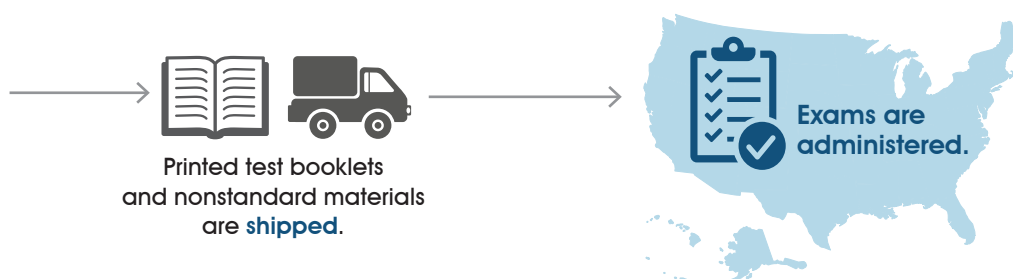
**8 to 18 months**  
before  
the exam



**2 to 20 months**  
before  
the exam



**3 to 4 weeks**  
before  
the exam

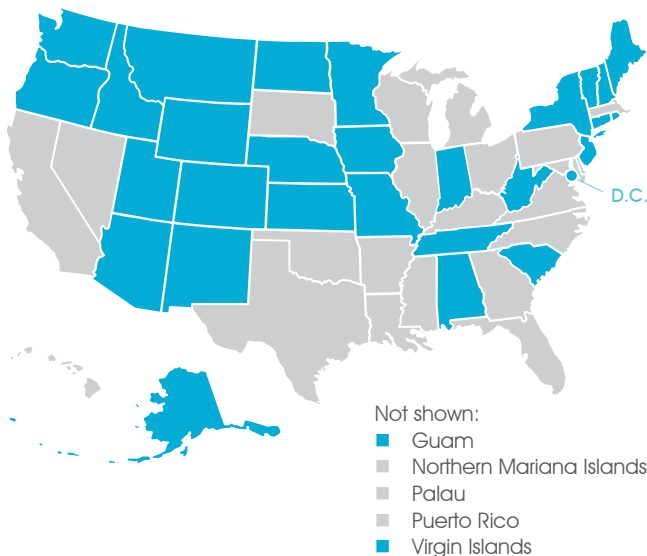


# Score-Related Services

## Score Scaling Services

NCBE offers score scaling services to scale the written components of the bar exam to the MBE. This service is available to all jurisdictions at no charge and is performed by NCBE's team of psychometric professionals.

**31** jurisdictions used NCBE's score scaling services in 2017.



## Score Services

NCBE offers the following score services after original score reporting:

- MPRE score transfers to jurisdictions and unofficial score transcripts to examinees
- MBE score transfers to jurisdictions and score releases to examinees
- official UBE score transcripts to jurisdictions and unofficial UBE score transcripts to examinees

## Score Services in 2017

**16,368** MPRE scores transferred to jurisdictions

**6,415** MPRE score transcripts released to examinees

**1,783** MBE scores transferred to jurisdictions

**938** MBE scores released to examinees

**3,776** UBE score transcripts transferred to jurisdictions

**1,377** UBE score transcripts released to examinees

## NCBE Numbers

An applicant's NCBE Number serves as a unique identifier for MBE, UBE, and MPRE scores and other admission-related purposes. Jurisdictions that administer the MBE are strongly encouraged to use NCBE Numbers to facilitate identification of examinees across jurisdictions and administrations.

## 49 of the 54 jurisdictions

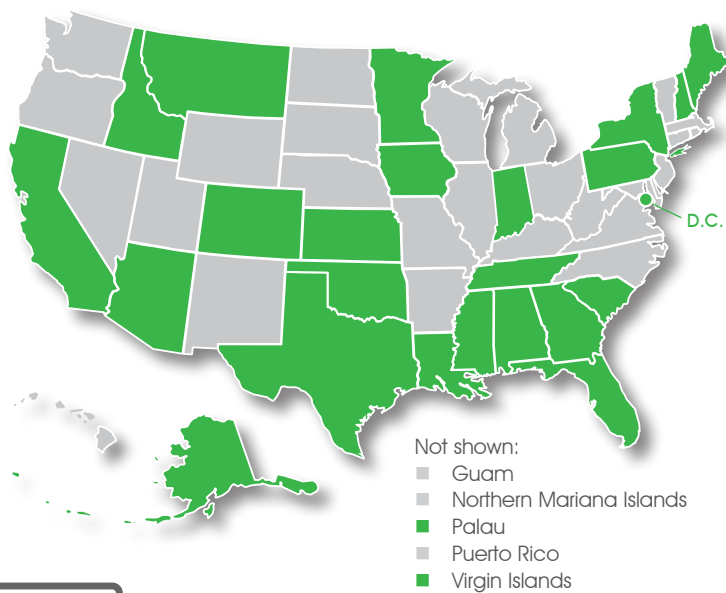
that used the MBE in 2017 included NCBE Numbers as an identifier for their examinees' scores.



# Research

NCBE's Testing and Research Department, which consists of seven full-time staff members with expertise in educational measurement, psychometrics, and statistics, conducts research both for NCBE examination programs and in partnership with jurisdictions—for example, to determine the potential impact on test scores of irregular testing conditions such as noise or other disruptions, or to analyze examinee performance.

In 2017, NCBE conducted research for **26** jurisdictions.



In addition, NCBE's Testing and Research Department prepared 23 data forensics reports for seven jurisdictions to analyze the response patterns of examinees suspected of cheating.

## Joe E. Covington Award

NCBE's annual Joe E. Covington Award for Research on Testing for Licensure is intended to provide support for graduate students in any discipline doing research germane to testing and measurement, particularly in a high-stakes licensure setting. The award honors Joe E. Covington, a former dean of the University of Missouri–Columbia School of Law who was the first Director of Testing for NCBE.



The 2017 Covington Award recipient was Jinah Choi, University of Iowa Center for Advanced Studies in Measurement and Assessment, for her project, "Validity and Reliability of Subscores and Profile Analysis."

## Publications and Presentations

Testing and Research Department staff members also conduct original scholarly research that helps maintain the high quality of our exams and contributes to the field of educational measurement. In 2017, Testing and Research Department staff made five presentations at professional conferences and had two book chapters published or forthcoming.

### Publications

**Albanese, M. & Mroch, A.** "Review of the General Educational Development (GED) Test (2014 Series)." In *The Twenty-Second Mental Measurements Yearbook* (Buros Center for Testing, 2017).

**Albanese, M. & Hinman, G.** "Types and Design of Assessment in PBL." In *Wiley Handbook of PBL* (Wiley-Blackwell, in press).

### Presentations

**Chen, J. & Albanese, M.** "Assessing Test Speededness: An Analysis of the Multistate Bar Examination." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Antonio, TX, April 2017.

**Chen, J., Connally, M. & Albanese, M.** "Item Order Effect on IRT Number-Correct Score Equating." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Council on Measurement in Education, San Antonio, TX, April 2017.

**Chen, J., Kane, J. & Albanese, M.** "Assessing Differential Speededness for a Paper-and-Pencil Exam." Presented at the NBME-sponsored conference Timing Impact on Measurement in Education, Philadelphia, PA, October 2017.

**Zhang, M. & Albanese, M.** "Graphical Imaging Methods for Detecting Potential Collusion for Test Centers with Unusual Score Gains." Presented at the 2017 Conference on Test Security, Madison, WI, September 2017.

**Zhang, M. & Kane, J.** "Detection of Potential Collusion Across Multiple Examinees: A Real-World Example." Presented at the 2017 Conference on Test Security, Madison, WI, September 2017.

Number of  
Study Aids  
Purchased  
in 2017

## **MBE** OPEs

**3,262**

## **MPRE** OPEs

**2,735**

## **MBE** STUDY AID

(Released mid-December 2017)

**73**

## **MEE** STUDY AIDS

**3,820**

## **MPT** STUDY AIDS

**1,583**

# Study Aids

We offer study aids for all our tests, available for purchase online at the NCBE Study Aids Store; additional study aids are available free of charge on the NCBE website.

## Online Practice Exams (OPEs) for the MBE and the MPRE

OPEs are annotated exams that use retired questions drawn from actual MBEs and MPREs administered in recent years. Annotations by the experts who write questions for the MBE and MPRE explain why each answer choice is correct or incorrect. Examinees can take the practice exam timed or untimed, receive feedback on their answers, and obtain a customized score report designed to help identify strengths and weaknesses. Purchasing an OPE gives an examinee a subscription for unlimited access to the exam for one year after the date of purchase.

## MBE Study Aid

The MBE Study Aid contains 210 questions drawn from previous MBEs, with 30 questions for each of the seven MBE subject areas. Questions are grouped by subject; each group of questions is prefaced by the relevant section of the Subject Matter Outline and followed by an answer key. Available as hard copy or download.

## MEE Questions and Analyses

MEE Questions and Analyses include questions from previous MEEs administered in recent years and model analyses that are illustrative of the discussions that might appear in excellent answers to the questions. Available as hard copy or download.

## MPTs and Point Sheets

MPTs and Point Sheets include MPTs administered in recent years and include corresponding Point Sheets that describe the factual and legal points encompassed within the lawyering tasks to be completed in each test and outline the possible issues and points that might be addressed by an examinee. Available as hard copy or download.

# Character and Fitness Investigations

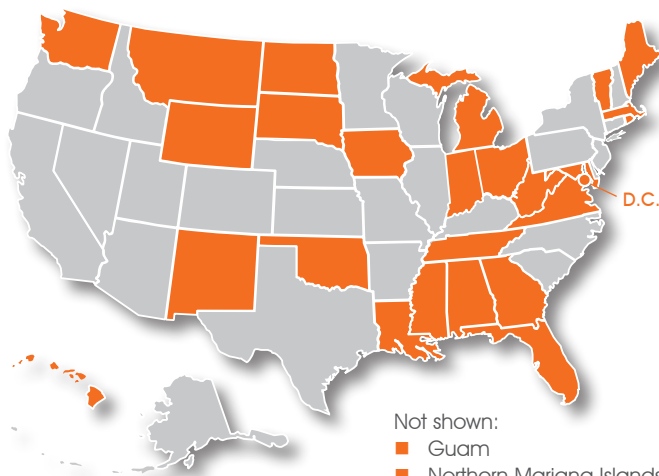
NCBE provides investigation services to support jurisdiction character and fitness requirements for law student registration, bar examination, UBE transfer, motion, in-house counsel, and foreign legal consultant applications. NCBE also offers an online character report application that jurisdictions may use in conjunction with our investigation services or separately.

Our Online Verification process allows jurisdictions and law schools to electronically receive and respond to NCBE's investigation inquiries related to information reported by applicants in their character report applications.

Our Cross-Reference service is a tool offered to jurisdictions to investigate whether applicants have previously submitted any type of application to another jurisdiction.



In 2017, NCBE conducted **12,228** character and fitness investigations on behalf of **29** jurisdictions.



- Not shown:
- Guam
  - Northern Mariana Islands
  - Palau
  - Puerto Rico
  - Virgin Islands

## Character and Fitness Investigation Services in 2017

29

jurisdictions used our investigation services.

28

jurisdictions used our online character report application.

29

jurisdictions received investigations reports online.

45

jurisdictions used our Online Verification process.

45

jurisdictions participated in our Cross-Reference service.



# Publications and Website

## The Bar Examiner

The *Bar Examiner*, published quarterly, covers current issues in bar admissions and legal education and includes a regular column on testing topics, written by members of NCBE's Testing and Research Department, and annual bar examination and admission statistics by jurisdiction. It is published as a service to courts, academia, bar admission administrators, members of bar examining boards and character committees, and others with particular interest in the bar admissions process.

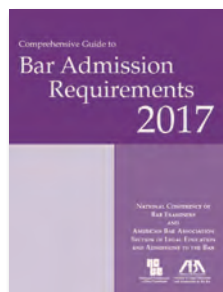
[www.ncbex.org/the-bar-examiner](http://www.ncbex.org/the-bar-examiner)



In 2017, the *Bar Examiner* had a circulation of 3,400 per issue.

The *Bar Examiner* page of our website was accessed 12,461 times in 2017.

## The Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements



The *Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements* provides annually updated information on bar admission requirements in all U.S. jurisdictions, including a directory of state bar admission agencies. It is published in collaboration with the American Bar Association.

[www.ncbex.org/bar-admissions-guide](http://www.ncbex.org/bar-admissions-guide)

## Statistics



NCBE collects annual bar examination and admission statistics from the jurisdictions. These statistics, along with national data for the administrations of the MBE and the MPRE, are published in every Spring issue of the *Bar Examiner* and are available on NCBE's website.

[www.ncbex.org/statistics](http://www.ncbex.org/statistics)

## NCBE Website

[www.ncbex.org](http://www.ncbex.org)

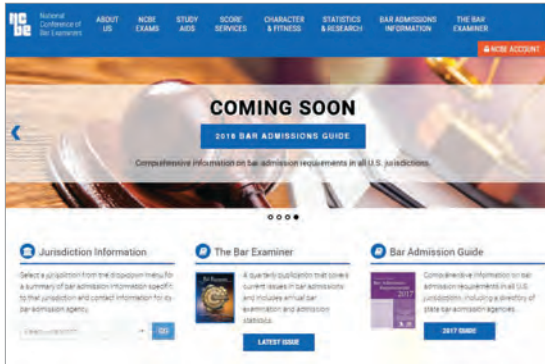
- A one-stop resource for news and information about our tests, character and fitness investigation services, score services, study aids, and research related to bar admissions
- Comprehensive and up-to-date information about bar admission requirements in all U.S. jurisdictions, including interactive maps
- Current and past issues of the *Bar Examiner* magazine
- Annual bar examination and admission statistics by jurisdiction
- NCBE Account login for applicants to access MPRE registration, score services requests, NCBE's online character report application, and previously purchased online practice exams

In 2017, our website had 861,007 visitors an average of 2,359 visitors per day.

We answered 13,313 inquiries through our online Help & Support system in 2017 an average of 1,109 inquiries per month.



In early 2018, our redesigned and updated **online character report application** will offer enhancements to the character and fitness process for jurisdictions and applicants.



Throughout 2018, we will expand **our web presence** to help us more easily share news and information related to bar admissions.



We will continue to **sponsor a broad range of educational events** in 2018 and beyond, including the following:

- MPRE Question-Writing Workshop
- Best Practices in Testing
- UBE Jurisdictions Forum



NCBE's Board of Trustees has appointed a **Testing Task Force**, which is undertaking a future-focused study of the bar examination over the next three years to ensure that the examination continues to test the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for competent entry-level practice in a changing legal profession. As its work progresses, the Task Force will obtain input from bar admission authorities in the jurisdictions and from stakeholders that play a role in training lawyers, such as law schools, bar associations, and employers.



In 2018, we will begin the process of converting the **Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE)** from a paper-based to a computer-based format. We expect the conversion to be completed in 2019 and the MPRE to be administered at computer-based testing centers beginning in 2020.

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2012 2013	Franklin R. Harrison (Florida)	1973 1974	Yoshio Shigezawa (Hawaii)
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2010 2011	Philip M. Madden (California)	1971 1972	Merrill R. "Pappy" Bradford (Maine)
2009 2010	Sam Hanson (Minnesota)	1970 1971	R. Lowell Miller (California)
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2005 2006	Marva Jones Brooks (Georgia)	1966 1967	William H. King (Virginia)
2004 2005	David R. Boyd (Alabama)	1965 1966	Robert T. Green (Ohio)
2003 2004	Alice E. Richmond (Massachusetts)	1964 1965	E. Marshall Thomas (Iowa)
2002 2003	Jequita Harmon Napoli (Oklahoma)	1963 1964	John B. Hendricks (Illinois)
2001 2002	Isidoro Berkman (California)	1962 1963	Stanley G. Falk (New York)
2000 2001	Gregory G. Murphy (Montana)	1961 1962	Samuel J. Kanner (Florida)
1999 2000	Sarah N. Hall (West Virginia)	1960 1961	John A. Eckler (Ohio)
1998 1999	Jerome C. Hafter (Mississippi)	1959 1960	Robert A. Sprecher (Illinois)
1997 1998	Kathryn E. Ressel (Florida)	1958 1959	Fred M. Mock (Oklahoma)
1996 1997	Alan Kay (Washington, D.C.)	1957 1958	Sharp Whitmore (California)
1995 1996	Richard J. Bartlett (New York)	1956 1957	Walter Powers (Massachusetts)
1994 1995	Robert L. Potts (Alabama)	1955 1956	Len Young Smith (Illinois)
1993 1994	Marvin E. Barkin (Florida)	1954 1955	Bert M. Goldwater (Nevada)
1992 1993	Beverly Tarpley (Texas)	1953 1954	Olin E. Watts (Florida)
1991 1992	Stuart Duhl (Illinois)	1952 1953	Thomas H. Adams (Michigan)
1990 1991	Armando M. Menocal III (California)	1951 1952	John T. DeGraff (New York)
1989 1990	Marygold Shire Melli (Wisconsin)	1949 1951	Eugene P. Glenn (California)
1988 1989	J. Guy Beatty, Jr. (Tennessee)	1948 1949	H.P. Osborne (Florida)
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