

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF MARYLAND
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ON LIMITATION ON
APPLICATIONS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE
UNIFORM BAR EXAM IN MARYLAND IN FEBRUARY 2026

WHEREAS, on November 1, 2023, this Court issued an Administrative Order announcing that Maryland shall adopt the NextGen Uniform Bar Exam (“NextGen UBE”), with the first administration of the NextGen UBE in Maryland to occur in July 2026; and

WHEREAS, the February 2026 UBE in Maryland will be the final administration of the UBE in Maryland using the current UBE exam materials (“the Legacy UBE”) before SBLE commences administering the NextGen UBE; and

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2025, this Court issued an Administrative Order establishing a limitation on applications for the administration of the NextGen UBE in Maryland in July 2026 and establishing preferences for certain categories of applicants in filing to sit for the July 2026 NextGen UBE in Maryland; and

WHEREAS individuals who have previously taken a bar exam in Maryland may have a cognizable interest in retaking the Legacy UBE in Maryland before the State Board of Law Examiners (“SBLE”) ceases to administer the Legacy UBE in Maryland; and

WHEREAS the federal government of the United States of America is currently partially shut down due to lack of funding appropriations (“the federal shutdown”); and

WHEREAS the federal shutdown has prevented the Committee on Admissions of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals (“DC Committee on Admissions”) from opening registration for the February 2026 UBE in the District of Columbia, leading the DC Committee on Admissions to recommend that prospective bar applicants in the District of Columbia seek alternative exam arrangements; and

WHEREAS the number of applicants sitting for the February UBE in Maryland exceeded 350 in 2021, 2023, and 2024, and exceeded 300 in February 2022 and February 2025, but did not exceed 400 in any of those administrations; and

WHEREAS the number of applicants sitting for the February UBE in DC exceeded 650 in February 2024 and February 2025; and

WHEREAS physical limitations exist on the amount of space available to the Maryland State Board of Law Examiners (“SBLE”) to administer the February 2026 UBE in Maryland, and financial and other constraints at this time mean that, if the number of applicants to take the February 2026 UBE in Maryland is significantly higher than it has been in recent February administrations, including because prospective DC applicants seek alternative arrangements in Maryland for February 2026, SBLE cannot guarantee it will be able to secure additional space and staff to accommodate all potential applicants who might wish to sit for the February 2026 UBE in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the limitations and constraints discussed in the preceding paragraph, and based on the number of applications SBLE has received for prior administrations of the February UBE in Maryland, SBLE has recommended that this Court limit the number of applications to sit for the February 2026 UBE in Maryland, to 400 applications, with priority being given to those applicants who will be retaking a bar examination in Maryland; and

WHEREAS this Court would prefer not to have to impose any limitation on the number of applications; and

WHEREAS this Court finds, however, that, in the absence of a limit of 400 applications to sit for the February 2026 UBE in Maryland, it is possible that the number of applications received by SBLE will be greater than the number of applicants SBLE can test under current financial and space constraints, which could lead to disruption and other problems that could adversely affect applicants;

Now therefore, it is this 27th day of October, 2025, hereby

ORDERED by the Supreme Court of Maryland that

1. SBLE shall process no more than 400 applications to sit for the February 2026 UBE in Maryland; and
2. The February 2026 UBE in Maryland filing period shall be divided into two sections as follows:
 - a. Beginning on November 1, 2025, SBLE shall process, on a first-come-first-served basis, completed applications delivered to SBLE during the first 10 days of the February 2026 filing period (November 1, 2025 - November 10, 2025), from applicants who will be retaking a bar examination in Maryland (“Repeat Applicants in Maryland”); and
 - b. Beginning on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, SBLE will

process, on a first-come-first- served basis, completed applications delivered to SBLE during the entire February 2026 filing period (November 1, 2025 - December 1, 2025) from all applicants without applying any preferences; and

3. During each section of the February 2026 filing period, all priority categories of applicants are permitted to submit bar application materials through SBLE's online system and to deliver or cause to be delivered the required hard copies of bar application materials and fees. During the first section (November 1, 2025 – November 10, 2025), SBLE will process hard-copy application materials delivered by Repeat Applicants in Maryland, only, in the order in which they are received. During the second section (November 12, 2025 – November 30, 2025), SBLE will process applications from all applicants in the order they are or were received dating back to November 1, 2025; and
4. SBLE shall publicize the issuance and provisions of this Order on its website and as it otherwise deems appropriate.

/s/ Matthew J. Fader
Matthew J. Fader, Chief Justice

Shirley M. Watts, Justice*

/s/ Brynja M. Booth
Brynja M. Booth, Justice

/s/ Jonathan Biran
Jonathan Biran, Justice

/s/ Steven B. Gould
Steven B. Gould, Justice

/s/ Angela M. Eaves
Angela M. Eaves, Justice

/s/ Peter K. Killough
Peter K. Killough, Justice

* Justice Watts does not approve this Order.

Filed: October 27, 2025

/s/ Gregory Hilton
Gregory Hilton
Clerk
Supreme Court of Maryland

Pursuant to the Maryland Uniform Electronic Legal
Materials Act (§§ 10-1601 et seq. of the State
Government Article) this document is authentic.



Gregory Hilton, Clerk