

Rummel, Erin

To: Rummel, Erin
Subject: January Graduation & Bar Updates



UNIVERSITY *of* MARYLAND
FRANCIS KING CAREY
SCHOOL OF LAW

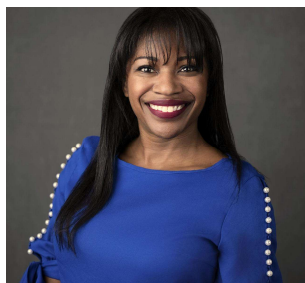


January 2025

Dear Erin,

Ceremonies to mark the conclusion of our graduates' time in law school will begin with a **Champagne Toast** on **Tuesday, May 20 at 5:30 pm** and will conclude with the conferral of degrees at the **Maryland Carey Law Hooding Ceremony** on **Friday, May 23 at 11:30 am**. Additional celebratory events will take place in between. Please visit the law school's [graduation page](#) to access the complete schedule.

Each month leading up to graduation, you will receive this Graduation and Admission to the Bar Updates Newsletter. In it, you will find tasks you must complete in anticipation of graduation, important information regarding celebratory events, bar admission updates, and more.



"Graduation is not the end; it's the beginning."

Dean Smith

Erica Smith, J.D., LL.M. (she/her/hers)
Associate Dean for Student Services
University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law



GRADUATION TASKS YOU MUST COMPLETE

During the month of **January**, you should focus on completing the following tasks:

Graduation Application

If you believe that you will meet the requirements to graduate in Spring 2025, you must submit a [graduation application](#) through [SURFS](#) on or before **February 10, 2025**. Once you are logged in to SURFS, click "Students" then "Graduation Application."

[Degree Works](#) lists the courses you have already completed and courses for which you are currently registered, along with the courses you still need to take to graduate and formats it all into an easy-to-read audit.

Law School Diploma

The name on your diploma will be your official name as it appears on university records. You can view this detail in your SURFS account. If you would like to request a name on your diploma that is different from what appears on the University records, you can submit a [Request to Change Personal information](#).

Invitation Letter for US Visa

Are you in need of an invitation letter for a family member/friend coming from overseas to attend your graduation? If so, please request a letter or letters from [Ms. Amanda Barnes](#), Office Manager for Student Services, and provide the following information about your guests:

- The names of each guest and their relationship to you (parent, aunt, uncle, other family member, friend)
- The date guests are expected to arrive in the US and the date of their expected departure.
- The address where each guest will be residing while in the US.
- Name and address of the embassy to which the letter(s) should be addressed.



Navigating Bar Licensure

Wednesday, January 22 from 3:00 to 4:00 pm on Zoom

Becoming a licensed attorney goes beyond graduating with your J.D. This session will walk you through the steps to licensure and help you find the information you'll need to meet all of the requirements for your specific jurisdiction.

Questions? Email max@accesslex.org.

Register

Funding Your Bar Exam Experience

Tuesday, January 28 from 12:00 to 1:00 pm in Library Classroom 4403 and on [Zoom](#)

Paying for the bar exam, a bar test prep program, your living expenses during the time between graduation and taking the bar, and then starting your new legal career will add up quickly! Planning now to cover these costs can help take away some of the stress you'll be under during that high-pressure time. Learn more at this exciting event offered by AccessLex!

RSVP

All About the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE)

Thursday, January 30 from 12:00 to 1:00 pm on Zoom

The overwhelming majority of jurisdictions have adopted the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE). This session will cover each component of the UBE, including the Multistate Bar Exam (MBE), the Multistate Essay Exam (MEE), and the Multistate Performance Test (MPT).

Questions? Email max@accesslex.org.

Register



BAR ADMISSION UPDATES

Bar Admissions Reference Guide

Check out this [Quick Reference Guide](#) for popular UMB jurisdictions. If you have questions about this guide, please reach out to [Professor Yarbrough](#), Director of Bar Programs and Academic Achievement.

2025 MPRE Dates and Deadlines

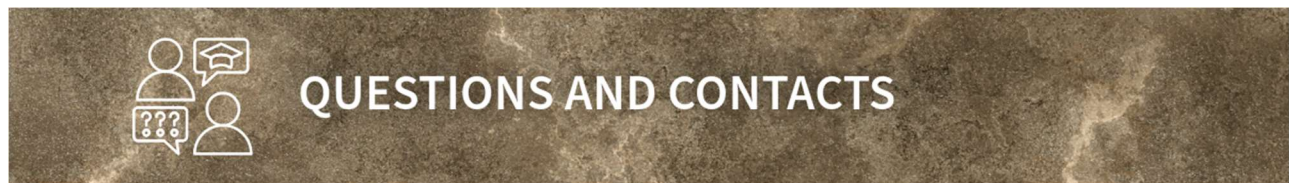
The registration deadline for the next administration in March is **Thursday, January 23**. More information is available at <https://www.ncbex.org/exams/mpre>.

DC Bar Announcement July 2025

There is a new seating capacity limit in place for the DC July 2025 bar exam administration. Only 2,200 seats will be available on a first come, first served basis (no law school limitations yet). Registration opens **Saturday, March 1** and closes on **Monday, March 31**. There is no late registration. More information on the DC bar exam admissions is available at <https://admissions.dcappeals.gov/home>.

Bar Prep Support Group

The Maryland State Bar Association's Lawyer Assistance Program has a 3-week [Bar Prep Support Group](#) designed to provide free and confidential mental health tools to help navigate the stressors of the bar exam process. The group will meet on January 29, February 12, and February 19. All sessions are on Wednesdays from 3:00 - 4:00 pm. For more information and to register, email Lisa Caplan at lisa@msba.org.



Whom to Contact

Law School's [Office of Registration and Enrollment](#)

- Eligibility for Graduation

UMB's [Office of the Registrar](#)

- Graduation Application
- Name Changes/Updates

[Office of Student Affairs](#)

- General Graduation Inquiries

[Professor Micah Yarbrough](#)

- Bar Admission Inquiries

If there is something missing from the Weekly Student Services Newsletter that you would like to see added, [please let us know](#).



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