

### **Diploma Privilege for Maryland (DP4MD) Fact Sheet**

Traditionally, the Bar Exam is administered July 28-29. Due to COVID-19, the Court of Appeals canceled the in-person July exam and announced a remote October 5-6 exam. The remote Bar Exam comes with a host of issues. DP4MD [surveyed](#) almost 200 of the 1100 Maryland Bar applicants and learned the following:

- **49.15%** of respondents indicated they **will not or are unsure** if they will have access to a reliable and consistent internet connection, which is required to take the Bar examination online.
- **78.29%** of respondents indicated they **will not or are unsure** if they will have access to a quiet space where they can take the Bar examination without interruption.
- **78%** of respondents reported at least \$20,000 in law school debt, **58%** of respondents reported more than \$100,000 in law school debt, and **17%** of respondents reported more than \$200,000 in law school debt.
- **Over 80%** of applicants are presently experiencing hardships: **64.16%** are experiencing financial insecurity; over **12%** are experiencing housing insecurity; and over **65%** are struggling emotionally.
- On a scale of 0-5 (0 being worst, 5 being best), **over 55%** of respondents indicated a mental health score of 2 or less.
- Across the board, recent graduates of color are suffering from nearly every hardship at a disproportionately high rate. Results from our Impact Survey show that applicants of color only constituted 29% of the survey respondents, yet represent:
  - **32%** of respondents with more than \$50,000 of student debt;
  - **46%** of respondents without a reliable internet connection; and
  - **42.8%** of respondents who require an accommodation during the bar exam; and
  - **31.03%** of respondents reported facing at least one hardship with **91.84%** of BIPOC respondents reporting experiencing at least one hardship.