

**IN THE
COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND**

July 31, 2020

**In Re: Emergency Petition for Temporary Suspension of
UBE Requirement and Order
Granting Emergency Diploma Privilege Plus**

**Filed pursuant to Art. IV, § 18 of the Maryland Constitution, which gives the Court of
Appeals the authority to regulate the practice of law in the State of Maryland**

Dear Clerk Suzanne C. Johnson:

The following document and supporting appendices are being filed with the Court of Appeals today in accordance with the Court's constitutional power and statutory duty to regulate the practice of law in the State of Maryland.¹ This is a nontraditional filing, and while no clear instructions appear to exist on how to file a petition of this nature, Petitioners have attempted to comply with the Court's rules and requirements for electronic filing. Petitioners apologize for any deficiencies and errors.

Petitioners have not included a written request that the Clerk of the Court issue a Writ of Summons because there is no adverse party. This filing is a request for the Court to act pursuant to its authority under Md. Const. art IV. § 18.

Respectfully,

/s/ Virginia Grimm, J.D.

/s/ Samuel Morse, J.D.

/s/ Dylan Elliott, J.D.

/s/ Alana Quint, J.D.

¹ Md. Const. art. IV § 18.

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Introduction

Petitioners are Juris Doctors¹ and applicants to the Maryland Bar scheduled to sit for the October 5th and 6th online Maryland Bar Examination (“bar exam”). Named-petitioners are joined by other Maryland bar applicants, practicing attorneys, professors, and other non-attorney supporters.² This Court has the constitutional authority to regulate the practice of law in Maryland.³ Moreover, this Court is statutorily directed to “adopt rules that govern the standards and procedures for admission to the Bar.”⁴

This Court, in an Administrative Order dated May 26, 2020, made the prudent decision to postpone the bar exam to September 9th and 10th of 2020 in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵ When the Maryland State Board of Law Examiners (“SBLE”) determined that it could not safely administer an in-person bar exam, this Court authorized the SBLE to administer an online, remotely proctored exam on October 5th and 6th of 2020.⁶

¹ Petitioners are all recent graduates of ABA accredited law schools.

² See, Appendix A.

³ Md. Const. art. IV § 18.

⁴ Md. Bus. Occ. & Prof. Code. Ann. § 10-103(a).

⁵ See, *Maryland State Board of Law Examiners Covid-19 Emergency Response*, STATE BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS <https://www.mdcourts.gov/ble> (last visited July 31, 2020).

⁶ *Id.*

It has been over one month since the remote bar exam was announced and applicants have yet to hear from the SBLE regarding the administration of the exam. While some of our concerns have been allayed, there remain many serious outstanding questions and concerns about the security, feasibility and practicability of an online, remotely proctored examination. In acknowledging the impracticability of administering an in-person or remote bar exam, our sister states, one by one, are deciding to temporarily suspend their respective bar examination requirements.⁷

Petitioners ask the Court to temporarily waive Md. Rule 19-201(a)(3), the UBE requirement, for all July 2020 Maryland Bar applicants. Waiving the UBE requirement does not mean applicants will enter practice unchecked. Per Md. Rule 19-201, bar applicants must still have: (1) completed the pre-legal education requirements for admission to a law school approved by the American Bar Association; (2) graduated with a juris doctor or equivalent degree from a law school located in a state and approved by the ABA; (3) achieved a qualifying MPRE score; (4) successfully completed the Maryland Law Component of the admission requirements; and (5) established good moral character and fitness for admission to the Bar. For this reason, what is being requested is best thought of as “Diploma Privilege Plus”.

I. Declining to adopt a variation of Diploma Privilege Plus will adversely impact applicants.

A July 2020 Impact Survey of Maryland Bar Applicants⁸ revealed unsettling statistics regarding how the Court’s decision to move to an online bar exam will impact applicants.⁹ For example, 49% of respondents indicated they will not have or are unsure if they will have access to a reliable and consistent internet connection, which is required to take the online exam.¹⁰ 78% of respondents indicated they will not have or are unsure if they will have access to a quiet space where they can take the bar exam without interruption.¹¹ Furthermore, 78% of respondents reported at least \$20,000 in law school debt, with 58%

⁷ See *infra* Section I. The District of Columbia’s top court is currently taking comments regarding the adoption of Diploma Privilege. Sam Skolnik, *D.C. Weighs Alternative Licensing for Law School Grads*, BLOOMBERG LAW (July 30, 2020, 6:55 PM) <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/us-law-week/d-c-weighs-alternative-licensing-for-law-school-grads>.

⁸ The July 2020 Impact Survey produced nearly 200 responses from Maryland Bar applicants.

⁹ See, Compilation of Statistics from July Survey Conducted by Maryland for Diploma Privilege Version 1.5 [Link to Survey Results](#)

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

reporting more than \$100,000 in law school debt.¹² The same survey revealed that over 80% of applicants are presently experiencing hardships, including financial and housing insecurity, as well as suffering from mental health issues.¹³ Postponing the exam from July to September, and September to October has delayed when applicants can enter practice. This delay has had an adverse economic impact.¹⁴

While all bar applicants will be adversely impacted by the failure to adopt Diploma Privilege Plus, applicants of color will be hit the hardest. Applicants of color constituted only 29% of the survey respondents, yet represent: 32% of respondents with more than \$50,000 of student debt, which needs to begin being paid back as early as November; 46% of respondents without a reliable internet connection; 42.8% of respondents who require accommodation during the bar exam (the SBLE has not provided information on how accommodations will be met during the online administration); and 31.03% of respondents who reported facing at least one hardship.¹⁵

Declining to adopt Diploma Privilege Plus and, instead, administering the remote October exam is impracticable not only because it will exacerbate these hardships, but also because there is no evidence to suggest software exists to successfully administer a remote bar exam.¹⁶ In fact, several states that tried to administer an online exam this summer saw the software crash.¹⁷ This Court should follow Louisiana, Washington, Oregon, and Utah's lead by adopting a variation of Diploma Privilege.¹⁸ As mentioned above, Petitioners request that the Court temporarily wave Md. Rule 19-201(a)(3), the UBE requirement, for all July 2020 Maryland bar applicants. Petitioners, as bar applicants, understand the importance of ensuring

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *See*, Compilation of Statistics from July Survey Conducted by Maryland for Diploma Privilege Version 1.5 [Link to Survey Results](#)

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ *See infra* Section II.

¹⁷ *See infra* Section II.1.

¹⁸ *See*, In re: Matter of Emergency Modifications to Utah Supreme Court Rules of Professional Practice, Rules Governing Admission to the Utah State Bar, Order for Temporary Amendments to Bar Admission Procedures During COVID-19 Outbreak (Apr. 21, 2020); In the Matter of Statewide Response by Washington State Courts to the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency, No. 25700-B-630, Order Granting Diploma Privilege and Temporarily Modifying Admission & Practice Rules (June 12, 2020); In the Matter of 2020 Attorney Admissions Process, Oregon Supreme Court Order No. 20-012 (June 30, 2020); Order Approving 2020 Attorney Admissions Process, Supreme Court of Louisiana, Order (July 22, 2020).

competency of lawyers. In place of the UBE, the Court has a variety of options it could implement to ensure competency requirements are satisfied.

On July 22, 2020, The Supreme Court of Louisiana issued an order waiving the written bar examination requirement and, in its place, granted Emergency Diploma Privilege for qualifying candidates.¹⁹ Louisiana's order requires qualifying candidates pass the character and fitness assessment and the MPRE.²⁰ In place of the bar exam, the Court requires qualified candidates complete the following no later than December 31, 2021: (1) 25 hours of CLE; and (2) all requirements of the Louisiana State Bar Association's "Transition Into Practice" program.²¹ Similar to Louisiana, The Supreme Court of Washington issued an order on June 12, 2020 granting temporary modifications to Washington's Admission and Practice Rules.²² The court granted diploma privilege to first-time and repeat takers registered for the July Washington bar exam and who received a Juris Doctorate degree from an ABA accredited law school.²³ The highest courts in both Utah and Oregon also adopted variations of emergency Diploma Privilege Plus.²⁴ This Court could require qualified applicants to complete similar requirements. In granting Diploma Privilege Plus, this Court would be implementing a safe, fair, and equitable path to licensure for July 2020 Maryland Bar applicants. Petitioners support the need to ensure competency of practitioners, but the bar exam is not the only way to do so. In adopting Diploma Privilege Plus, Maryland Bar applicants must still take and obtain a passing MPRE score and establish good moral character and fitness by receiving a favorable consideration from

¹⁹ See, Order Approving 2020 Attorney Admissions Process, Supreme Court of Louisiana, Order (July 22, 2020). A person is considered a qualifying candidate if the person: (1) completed registration for the July 2020 Louisiana bar exam; (2) graduated in December 2019 or later from an ABA-accredited law school; and (3) has not previously sat for a bar examination. The court's order allows non-qualifying applicants to sit for a remote exam this fall. *Id.*

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ *Id.*

²² See, In the Matter of Statewide Response by Washington State Courts to the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency, No. 25700-B-630, Order Granting Diploma Privilege and Temporarily Modifying Admission & Practice Rules (June 12, 2020).

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ See, In re: Matter of Emergency Modifications to Utah Supreme Court Rules of Professional Practice, Rules Governing Admission to the Utah State Bar, Order for Temporary Amendments to Bar Admission Procedures During COVID-19 Outbreak (Apr. 21, 2020); In the Matter of 2020 Attorney Admissions Process, Oregon Supreme Court Order No. 20-012 (June 30, 2020).

the Court-appointed Character Committee.²⁵ The MPRE tests an applicant's ability to understand the ethical issues involving, "appearance, representation, privilege, disqualification and contempt or censure, and in lawsuits seeking to establish liability for malpractice and other civil or criminal wrongs committed by a lawyer while acting in a professional capacity."²⁶ The Rules of Professional Conduct exist to protect clients and the public from attorney misconduct. While this Court may be hesitant to grant emergency diploma privilege based solely on an individual's legal education, that hesitation is mitigated by requiring successful completion of character and fitness, achieving a passing score on the MPRE, and any additionally required CLE hours or supervised practice hours.

Right now, the bar examination's postponement has left bar applicants with unfillable gaps in health insurance coverage. Applicants' student or family health insurance coverage has expired because the delayed examination has resulted in employment start dates being postponed temporarily or indefinitely and employment offers being rescinded.²⁷ Postponements and rescindments of employment offers mean applicants are unable to begin employer provided health insurance plans as they had expected. Bar applicants are becoming increasingly unable to provide for themselves and their families. Administering a remote bar exam further exacerbates these hardships without solving the problem.²⁸ As such, Petitioners request the Court amends Md. R. Attorneys Rule 19-201(a)(3) and temporarily waives the UBE requirement for all July 2020 Maryland bar exam applicants. Petitioners further request that the Court grants a variation of Emergency Diploma Privilege Plus.

II. It is not feasible to securely administer an online-remotely proctored bar exam.

²⁵ Md. Rule 19-201(a)(3); *See*, Character and Fitness Process for General Bar Admission, <https://www.mdcourts.gov/ble/character>.

²⁶ *See*, Jurisdictions Requiring the MPRE, Nat'l Conf. Bar Examiners, <http://www.ncbex.org/exams/mpre/>; *see also*, Md. R. Proc. Bd. R. 6, Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE), <https://www.mdcourts.gov/sites/default/files/import/ble/pdfs/revisedboardrule6.pdf>.

²⁷ *See*, Debra Cassens Weiss, "Law Grads Have Had Job Offers Rescinded at 49% of Surveyed Law Schools," ABA JOURNAL (July 16, 2020).

²⁸ *See infra* Section II.

Twenty-two states have announced the administration of a remote bar examination with eighteen of those states administering the October remote exam produced by NCBE.²⁹ Michigan, Nevada, and Indiana, have all attempted to administer their bar exams remotely and not one state has done it successfully.³⁰ Furthermore, the remote exam undermines the traditional purpose of the bar exam, to test competency, because instead of testing competency, it will test an applicant's access to resources.³¹

1. Software vendors are incapable of providing a reliable and secure way to administer the remote bar exam.

NCBE requires states to choose from only three different vendors to host the remote exam.³² There is no evidence to suggest that any of the three software vendors will ever be capable of providing serviceable testing conditions for over 1,000 Maryland bar applicants.³³ In the last week, two of the three potential vendors, ILG Technologies ("ILG360")³⁴ and ExamSoft³⁵, have demonstrated their inability to successfully administer the exam.

Last week, Indiana and Nevada, both using ILG Technologies, administered a "trial run" for their scheduled July 28 and 29 remote bar exams. Two business days from the July 2020 Indiana bar exam, Indiana bar applicants reported problems with the ILG360.³⁶ The Indiana Board of Law Examiners

²⁹ *July 2020 Bar Exam: Jurisdiction Information*, NCBE, <http://www.ncbex.org/ncbe-covid-19-updates/july-2020-bar-exam-jurisdiction-information/> (last visited July 29, 2020).

³⁰ See *infra* Section II.1.

³¹ See *infra* Section II.2.

³² According to a spokesperson for NCBE, the three vendors are ExamSoft, Extegrity, and ILG Technologies. Maggie Miller, *Law School Graduates Worries About Security, Privacy of Online Bar Exam*, THE HILL (July 14, 2020, 8:11 PM) <https://thehill.com/policy/technology/507381-law-school-graduates-worried-about-security-privacy-of-online-bar-exam>.

³³ See, *Petition to the Indiana Supreme Court Indiana Bar Exam Request for Emergency Diploma Privilege*, July 26, 2020, accessible at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RdPc3Z_NjJALkDu2Pv0QFtY8x4K-b7D2/view.

³⁴ In addition to the recent failings of ILG Technologies, ninety Georgia Bar applicants from 2015 and 2016 were informed that they had failed the exam due to vendor ILG Technologies producing incorrect results. See, Debra Cassens Weiss, *Tech Company Accused of Bar-Exam Grading Glitch has no Liability in Test-Takers Suit, 11th Circuit Says*, ABA JOURNAL (Jan. 9, 2020).

³⁵ Examsoft has experienced numerous issues involving in-person bar exams in the past few years. Examinees have been unable to upload their exam or have faced other technological glitches. For example, at the 2018 administration of the bar, test takers across the country reported issues with beginning the exam because of errors within the software system. See, Staci Zaretsky, *Bar Exam Software Debacle Causes Testing Delays Across the County*, ABOVE THE LAW (Mar. 1, 2018).

³⁶ Marilyn Odenhahl, *Software Headaches Adding to Bar Exam Worries*, THE INDIANA LAWYER (July 24, 2020) <https://www.theindianalawyer.com/articles/software-headaches-adding-to-bar-exam-worries>.

(“Board”) emailed bar applicants³⁷ that ILG360 was working “many hours to enable the remote exam to take place.”³⁸ However, those “many hours” proved insufficient. The Indiana Supreme Court scheduled a live trial run of the exam for Friday, July 24, 2020 to give applicants an opportunity to test the software.³⁹ On Thursday, July 23, 2020, the Board suspended the live trials because ILG360 informed the Board and applicants they needed to install a new update for the software to run.⁴⁰ The next day, the live trials began with applicants using the updated software that supposedly fixed the severe lagging problem. However, new problems arose—applicants reported “having to spend almost 15 minutes repeatedly trying to enter the exam and once they logged on, the test lagged as they typed their answers”.⁴¹ In addition, the “software kept sending messages to some applicants about problems connecting to the internet.”⁴² Some applicants contacted ILG360 technical support and were sent to voicemail while those who were able to get through to the help desk received conflicting information.⁴³ As a result of the failed software, Indiana postponed its remote exam to August 4th.⁴⁴

On July 29th, the Indiana Supreme Court issued an order canceling the remote administration of the bar exam.⁴⁵ In its order, the Court found “that it is not possible to administer the remote bar exam on August 4 using the format promised by the vendor.”⁴⁶ In response to ILG Technologies inability to correct the problems with the software and in both acknowledging the “urgent and pressing need for new attorneys to begin practicing” and the court’s “obligation to ensure new attorneys are duly qualified and competent

³⁷ Indiana has more than 500 applicants. *See, Indiana Judicial Branch Calendar Remote Bar Exam To Be Held With Adjustments*, (July 29, 2020) <https://calendar.in.gov/site/courts/event/supreme-remote-bar-exam-to-be-held-with-adjustments/> (last visited July 31, 2020).

³⁸ *Id.*

³⁹ Marilyn Odenhahl, *Software Headaches Adding to Bar Exam Worries*, THE INDIANA LAWYER (July 24, 2020) <https://www.theindianalawyer.com/articles/software-headaches-adding-to-bar-exam-worries>.

⁴⁰ *Id.*

⁴¹ *Id.*

⁴² Marilyn Odenhahl, *Software Headaches Adding to Bar Exam Worries*, THE INDIANA LAWYER (July 24, 2020) <https://www.theindianalawyer.com/articles/software-headaches-adding-to-bar-exam-worries>.

⁴³ *Id.*

⁴⁴ *See, Indiana Judicial Branch Calendar Remote Bar Exam To Be Held With Adjustments*, (July 24, 2020) <https://calendar.in.gov/site/courts/event/supreme-indiana-remote-bar-exam-postponed-to-august/> (last visited July 31, 2020).

⁴⁵ *See*, The Indiana Supreme Court, Order, July 29, 2020, <https://www.in.gov/judiciary/files/order-other-2020-20S-CB-300b.pdf>.

⁴⁶ *Id.*

to represent clients,” the Indiana Supreme Court ordered the exam to be in an open-book format, with no live monitoring or proctoring.⁴⁷ Applicants will receive the exam questions, short answer and essay, by email and will submit their answers directly to the Board.⁴⁸

Similar to Indiana, the July 28 and 29 Nevada bar exam has been postponed to August 11 and 12, the same days as the MPRE, which Nevada also requires.⁴⁹ The Supreme Court of Nevada issued the order delaying the exam, at the request of the Nevada Board of Bar Examiners, because the “pre-testing [of the software] revealed a problem the vendor [ILG Technologies] is correcting [July 25 and 26].”⁵⁰ Accordingly, Nevada bar applicants were scheduled to re-test the software Tuesday, July 28 for the now August bar exam.⁵¹ However, that test failed to happen because, according to the Nevada State Board of Bar Examiners, the software “had to have an update done [July 28]”.⁵² As a result, the software test was postponed to July 29.⁵³

Furthermore, Nevada requires applicants to sign waivers of liability that release the Nevada Board of Bar Examiners and ILG Technologies from liability.⁵⁴ Applicants will also not be provided technical support and are required to “accept the risk of technical difficulties with computer operations, disruption of internet service, or interference with video/audio surveillance.”⁵⁵ As the Nevada Board of Bar Examiners puts it, “the inability to complete the exam due to technical issues shall require applicants to terminate the exam.”⁵⁶

⁴⁷ *Id.*

⁴⁸ *Id.*

⁴⁹ *See, Nevada July Bar Exam Postponed Until August*, KTNV LAS VEGAS (July 25, 2020, 5:41 PM) <https://www.ktnv.com/news/nevada-july-bar-exam-postponed-until-august>.

⁵⁰ *Id.*; Supreme Court of Nevada, Order, July 24, 2020, https://nvcourts.gov/Supreme/News/Order_Postponing_the_July_2020_Bar_Exam/.

⁵¹ *Id.*

⁵² *See, e.g., United for Diploma Privilege (@DiplomaPriv4All)*, Twitter (July 28, 2020 4:17 PM) <https://twitter.com/DiplomaPriv4All/status/1288207053404741637/photo/1>.

⁵³ *Id.*

⁵⁴ *See, Exam By Computer*, STATE BAR OF NEVADA, <https://www.nvbar.org/for-lawyers/admissions/bar-exam/exam-computer/> (last visited July 31, 2020).

⁵⁵ *Id.*

⁵⁶ *Id.*

The release of liability is troubling considering how vulnerable the software is to hacking.⁵⁷ This week, on July 28, Michigan administered its remote bar exam using ExamSoft. Exam takers reported ExamSoft’s software failed when exam takers were locked out of a website which contained passwords necessary for applicants to move from Module 1 to 2, and so on.⁵⁸ In a desperate attempt to move forward with the exam, exam takers took to social media to obtain the passwords.⁵⁹ After over an hour of “glitching,” ExamSoft published the passwords for the 4 remaining Modules on their public website.⁶⁰ ExamSoft initially reported that bar applicants experienced “a temporary 30-minute inability to login to the 2nd module” of the exam.⁶¹ However, ExamSoft later reported that the Michigan Bar exam was subjected to a “sophisticated [Distributed Denial of Service cyber]attack specifically aimed at the login process for the ExamSoft Portal”.⁶² While ExamSoft reported that all test takers were able to complete all sections of the exam, the delay, confusion, and stress left some test takers unable to successfully reach all parts of the exam.⁶³ ExamSoft claimed that no data was compromised by the attack.⁶⁴ However, the Michigan Board of Law Examiners is “committed to further investigation to better understand the cyber-attack and the impact on applicants.”⁶⁵ If the attack is anything similar to the cyber-attack experienced by American Board of

⁵⁷ Tom Masters, *Feasibility of a Mass Online California Bar Exam: 1. Cybersecurity* (July 23 2020) <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wpo5Mz9iZr003FUpXNMezGO2NNpH-Bbf9T2x4l7qHyQ/edit>; Tom Masters, *Feasibility of a Mass Online California Bar Exam: Part 2: Technical Feasibility* (July 28 2020) <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xfNmDsP0fnHqk6se2vUF54T9ZSf9bNr8oisR9aDjVwg/edit>.

⁵⁸ Allie Reed, *Cyber Attack Said to Disrupt Michigan’s Online Bar Exam*, BLOOMBERG LAW (July 28, 2020 5:39 PM) <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/business-and-practice/cyber-attack-locks-michigan-bar-exam-takers-out-of-online-test>.

⁵⁹ See, e.g., Jonathan Korn (@jkornjkorn), Twitter (Jul. 29, 2020, 10:38 AM) <https://twitter.com/jkornjkorn/status/1288121697925656578/photo/1>; Jonathan Korn (@jkornjkorn), Twitter (Jul. 29, 2020, 10:52 AM) <https://twitter.com/jkornjkorn/status/1288125261616050177/photo/1>.

⁶⁰ *Id.*

⁶¹ See, Exam Soft (@ExamSoft), Twitter (Jul. 28, 2020, 1:05 PM) <https://twitter.com/ExamSoft/status/1288158760444334081>.

⁶² Allie Reed, *Cyber Attack Said to Disrupt Michigan’s Online Bar Exam*, BLOOMBERG LAW (July 28, 2020 5:39 PM) <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/business-and-practice/cyber-attack-locks-michigan-bar-exam-takers-out-of-online-test>.

⁶³ See, e.g., Hokage-sama J.D. (@TweeterlessJ), Twitter (Jul. 28, 2020, 12:43 PM) <https://twitter.com/TweeterlessJ/status/1288153085622321153> (“When I finally got through to take the second module, I was so outside of the mindset to take the exam that I ran out of time. They knew this would happen....”).

⁶⁴ See, Exam Soft (@ExamSoft), Twitter (Jul. 28, 2020, 6:34 PM) <https://twitter.com/ExamSoft/status/1288158760444334081>.

⁶⁵ Allie Reed, *Cyber Attack Said to Disrupt Michigan’s Online Bar Exam*, BLOOMBERG LAW (July 28, 2020 5:39 PM) <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/business-and-practice/cyber-attack-locks-michigan-bar-exam-takers-out-of-online-test>.

Surgery, applicants can look forward to having personal data, such as credit card information and Amazon accounts, stolen as well as potentially being added⁶⁶ on social media by proctors who watched them for hours while they took the exam.⁶⁷

2. *A remote bar exam tests access to resources, not competency.*

Applicants are now responsible for providing testing conditions that are traditionally provided by the SBLE. DP4MD's June Impact Survey revealed that Maryland bar applicants are unable to create environments required to take the remote October bar examination.⁶⁸ Many applicants are unable to obtain reliable and consistent internet or a quiet space to take the exam without interruption.⁶⁹ These hardships disproportionately impact applicants of color.⁷⁰

Many bar applicants may have small, confined living spaces with roommates forced to work from home or roommates who are expected to take the remote bar examination as well. Further, many bar applicants have small children that require constant attention and create conditions that make sitting for a remotely proctored online exam extremely difficult, if not impossible. As of July 30, nine of Maryland's public school districts have announced that they will not return to in-person learning for at least the first semester of the 2020-2021 academic year.⁷¹ This means that not only will parents of school-age children have to take

⁶⁶ Added refers to "friend-requesting" and "following" on social media platforms.

⁶⁷ When the American Board of Surgery attempted to offer the General Surgery Qualifying Exam virtually and through a remote proctoring service, the result was disastrous. American Board of Surgeons conducted their board exams virtually on July 15, 2020 and noted that their "attempted administration of the virtual . . . exam was a failure." See, *ABS Issuing Refunds, Launching Security Investigation for Virtual 2020 General Surgery QE*, AM. BD. OF SURGEONS (July 17, 2020), http://www.absurgery.org/default.jsp?news_virtualgsqe07.17. The American Board of Surgeons explained that due to the remote proctoring service failing on the day of the exam, students were faced with "delays, interruptions, and ultimately a break-down of the entire exam." See, *FAQ's, Am. Bd. of Surgeons*, http://www.absurgery.org/default.jsp?faq_virtualgsqe2020 (last visited July 31, 2020). The remote proctoring service was unable to remedy the problems for the second day of the exam resulting in the cancellation of the exam as it was in progress. *Id.* Further, the Board noted that "delivery of exam items [was] inconsistent and unreliable." *ABS Update Regarding the July 16-17 General Surgery Qualifying Exam*, AM. BD. OF SURGEONS (July 16, 2020), http://www.absurgery.org/default.jsp?news_virtualgsqe07.16. As of July 24, the Qualifying Exam for General Surgery remains cancelled. *Id.*

⁶⁸ See, *Compilation of Statistics from July Survey Conducted by Maryland for Diploma Privilege Version 1.5* [Link to Survey Results](#)

⁶⁹ See *supra* section I.

⁷⁰ See *supra* section I.

⁷¹ See, McKenna Oxden, *Schools Reopening: Here's How Maryland Jurisdictions Are Planning for the Fall Amid the Coronavirus Pandemic*, THE BALTIMORE SUN (July 30, 2020) <https://www.baltimoresun.com/coronavirus/bs-md-reopening-schools-fall-2020-list-20200710-o4htnjkfmrjplnrkn3fsgk5u-story.html>.

the bar exam with young children at home, but in certain instances, they will have to choose whether they take the bar exam or to allow their children to use the computer to attend virtual school. Even for those without children, it is impossible to ensure hours of absolute, uninterrupted silence at a time. Cities are loud, dogs bark, power outages occur, packages are delivered, elderly persons need care, and co-occupants of the home have work of their own which often requires them to speak on the phone or in video conferences with their co-workers.

As other jurisdictions reveal their online exam protocols, it becomes apparent how impractical it is to administer a remote exam. For example, Tennessee's protocol list states the following behaviors and actions that will result in a cancellation of exam scores: use or presence of a cell phone;⁷² paper of any kind; mirrors that can reflect the laptop screen; anyone other than the examinee in the room; talking or other extraneous noise in the room; being out of the frame of the camera at any time, including standing up or walking around.⁷³ Tennessee's Board of Law Examiners released the following tips for taking the online exam: "(1) try not to fidget as excessive movement can appear to be cheating; (2) try not to touch your face or twirl your hair, it can look like you are reading notes on your hands; (3) do not talk; (4) do not look up, down or to the side for more than a few seconds, any longer looks like you are cheating."⁷⁴ One wonders whether any applicant could successfully take the exam under these or similar conditions.

While the SBLE has not yet released any information regarding the logistics of the online bar exam, applicants have been informed that: the SBLE has yet to pick a vendor; applicants will not have access to scrap paper or writing utensils; applicants must remain in the camera's view at all times; the software will use the computer's camera as a proctoring tool; and the software *may* include note-taking functionality.⁷⁵

⁷² How are exam takers supposed to resolve technical issues like Michigan examinees experienced without use of their phones?

⁷³ See, Diploma Privilege for Maryland (@Dp4MD), Twitter (Jul. 24, 2020, 1:12 PM) <https://twitter.com/Dp4Md/status/1286710778159144960>.

⁷⁴ See, Diploma Privilege for Maryland (@DP4MD) Twitter (July 24, 2020 1:12 PM) <https://twitter.com/Dp4Md/status/1286710778159144960>; see also, Yoonji Han, *Some Young Lawyers Taking the Bar Exam Online Could See Their Scores Canceled If They Touch Their Face, Fidget, or Twirl Their Hair*, BUSINESS INSIDER (July 25, 2020) <https://www.businessinsider.com/tennessee-online-bar-exam-strict-rules-2020-7>.

⁷⁵ It is worth noting that the most frequently used bar-study courses all encourage and instruct test-takers to use scratch paper to diagram and annotate questions for all sections of the UBE.

The SBLE is encouraging applicants to prepare for the exam without paper copies or scratch paper. This method is untested and unrealistic to the practice of law. The SBLE has also not communicated any information on how individuals with testing accommodations will be accommodated with the online testing format. As a result, the remote bar exam will not test competency, but instead test an applicant's access to resources and ability to successfully abide by all of the protocol requirements.

Conclusion

Petitioners respectfully request the Court of Appeals use its authority to ensure a safe and equitable path to licensure by temporarily waiving Md. Rule 19-201(a)(3), the UBE requirement, and granting Diploma Privilege Plus for all July 2020 Maryland Bar applicants.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Virginia Grimm, J.D.

/s/ Samuel Morse, J.D.

/s/ Dylan Elliott, J.D.

/s/ Alana Quint, J.D.

Enclosures:

Appendix A: Supporting Signatures

Appendix B: Personal Impact Statements

Appendix A: Supporting Signatures

This document consists of over 1,000 individuals who have signed in support of the Court granting Diploma Privilege Plus to all July 2020 Maryland Bar applicants.

2020 MARYLAND BAR CANDIDATES

Alisa Fornwald, American University Washington College of Law, 2020
Amanda Tomack, American University Washington College of Law, Class of 2020
Amber Ebanks, AUWCL, Class of 2020
Andrea Kelly, American University Washington College of Law, Class of 2020
Ayah Innab, American University of Law, Class of 2020
Belen Crisp, American University - Washington College of Law, Class of 2020
Brianna Gaddy, American University Washington College of Law, Class of 2020
Casey Marson, American University Washington College of Law, Class of 2020
Denaya Holland, American University WCL, 2020
Elizabeth Farley, American University Washington College of Law, Class of 2020
Gabriella C. Malloy, American University Washington College of Law, Class of 2020
Haley Magwood, American University Washington College of Law, 2020
Hannah Gardenswartz, American University Washington College of Law 2020
Hugo Garcia Jr., American University Washington College of Law, Class of 2020
Jasmine Santos American University Washington College of Law, Class of 2020
Jessica Greer, American University Washington College of Law, Class of 2020
Kathryn Heidi Smucker, American University Washington College of Law, Class of 2020
Kimiya Gilani, American University Washington College of Law, Class of 2020
Lili Lowell, American University Washington College of Law, class of 2020
Mahika Narula, American University, Class of 2022
Maria Nicole Latimer, American University, Washington College of Law, Class of 2020
Marjorie Lluveres, American University Washington College of Law class of 2020
Matti Vagnoni, American University Washington College of Law, Class of 2020
Meghana Sai Vodela, 2020, American University Washington School of Law, Class of 2020
Miroslava Sharpe, American University Washington College of Law, 2020
Molly Prindle, American University Washington College of Law, Class of 2020
Pamela Duran, Washington College of Law, Class of 2020
Sarah Fraenkel, American University Washington College of Law, Class of 2020
Sasha Brisbon, American University Washington College of Law, Class of 2020
Sienna Haslup, AU Washington College of Law, 2020
Victoria Kadous, American University Washington College of Law, Class of 2020
Emily Ahdieh, Antonin Scalia Law School, Class of 2020
Jennie O'Hara, George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School, Class of 2020
Emily Ahdieh, Antonin Scalia Law School, Class of 2020
Keelin Herbst, George Mason University, Class of 2020
Adriana Sanchez Soto, Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law, 2020
April Currey, Catholic University of America's, Columbus School of Law, Class of 2020
Aubrey Salamin, The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law, Class of 2020
Rebecca Schisler, Catholic University Columbus School of Law C'20
Theodore Warner, Catholic University, 2020

Hayley Dunn, The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, Class of 2020
 David Snyder, Charleston School of Law, Class of 2020
 Bryn Baffer, Columbus School of Law, Class of 2020
 Casey Wiggin, CUA Law, Class of 2020
 Claudia Grace Shannon, Columbus School of Law, Class of 2020
 Richard Baldwin, Delaware Law School, class of 2020
 Sam Crystle, Delaware Law School '20
 Anne Martin, The George Washington University Law School, Class of 2020
 Briana Odom, The George Washington University Law School, Class of 2020
 Michael Actis-Grande, GW Law, Class of 2020
 Noa Ervin, GW Law, Class of 2020
 Timothy Hartman, George Washington, Class of 2020
 Paul Sheehy Moe, Georgetown University Law Center, Class of 2020
 Nicole Carroll, Georgetown Law, Class of 2020
 Michael Ingram, Georgetown University Law Center, Class of 2020
 Alicia Loh, Harvard Law School, Class of 2020
 Elizabeth Norford, Harvard Law School, Class of 2020
 Courtney Woods, Howard University School of Law, 2020
 Kendra Rose Curry, Howard University School of Law, Class of 2020
 Nelisa Inyang, Howard University School of Law, Class of 2020
 Sedia Tanis, Howard University School of Law, Class of 2020
 Shardé Hoff Howard University School of Law Class of 2019
 Gabriela Saint-Louis, Loyola university New Orleans college of law, class of 2020
 Robert Banks, Loyola New Orleans College of Law, Class of 2020
 Rosie Ripley, Maurer School of Law 2020
 Katelynn Watkins, Michigan State University College of Law, Class of 2020
 Alisha Watkins, Mitchell Hamline School of Law, 2020
 Nicholas Patten, North Carolina Central University School of Law, Class of 2020
 Devan Narendra Patel, Notre Dame Law School, Class of 2020
 Ashley Roberts, Ohio Northern University Claude W. Petit College of Law, Class of 2020
 Justice Kaufman, Penn State Law, Class of 2020
 Daniel Huynh, Santa Clara University, Class of 2019
 Nandini Ruparel, Santa Clara University School of Law, Class of 2020
 Caitlin Creamer, Suffolk law, 2020
 Ayana Bowman, Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law, Class of 2020
 Solena Laigle, Temple University Beasley School of Law, Class of 2020
 Michael Silber, Tulane Law School, 2019
 Kyle Campbell, University of Alabama School of Law, May 2020
 Adrian Martinez, University Of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Alana Quint, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Alexandra Rizzo, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Andres Silva, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Austin Klinger, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Brandon James, University of Baltimore, 2020
 Bridget K. M. Brodie, UB School of Law, Class of 2020
 Bridget Mentzer

Brittany Feinberg, University of Baltimore, Class of 2020
 Catalina Habeych, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Catherine King, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Catherine Kraft, UBALT Law, 2020
 Charles Lane, University of Baltimore Law School, Class of 2020
 Chase Eshelman, UB School of Law, Class of 2020
 Christina Araviakis, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Corrine Ellis—university of Baltimore school of law, class of 2020
 Courtland Merkel University of Baltimore Law school 2020
 Curtis Snyder, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Daniel Pei, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Daniyal Husain, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Devon Rolle
 Dylan Gerry, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Emily Borkowski, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Emma Dorris, University of Baltimore Law, Class of 2020
 Erin Cullinan, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Evan McDonough, University of Baltimore School of Law, 2020
 George Anthony Sfikas. University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Ian Douglas, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Jessica E Rotondo, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Jessica Rubin, UBalt Law, class of 2020
 Joseph Rossi, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Katelyn Wallace, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Kathleen Godwin, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Kimberly Andrews, University of Baltimore, May 2020
 Krishan Zaveri, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Liam Rhodes, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Matthew Geoffrey Katz, Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Megan Connolly University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Megan Korinne Bell, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Michael Destefano, University of Baltimore, 2020
 Michelle Sloan, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Nandin Dave, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of December 2020
 Nathan Adams, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Nicholas Jordan, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Patrick Short, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Payton Aldridge, University of Baltimore School of Law, class of 2029
 Raquel Flynn, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Rebekah Nickerson, University of Baltimore School of Law, 2020
 Ryan Fish, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Sarah Hernandez, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Savanna Scholet, University of Baltimore, 2020
 Scudder Sodergreen, University of Baltimore School of Law, 2020
 Sean Keene, University of Baltimore School of Law, class of 2020
 Shannon Hayden, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020

Shivani Shah, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Stacey Lounsbury, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Stephanie Broznowicz, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Sumbul Alam, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Taylor Deer, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Thomas K McDonald, University of Baltimore Law, Class of 2020
 Tia L. Holmes, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Tina Azarvand, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2020
 Xuan Truong, Univ. of Baltimore School of Law, 2021
 Jennifer Bisgaier, University of Chicago Law School, Class of 2020
 Cory Gutterman, University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, Class of 2020
 Keli Renee Cochran, University of DC, David A Clarke School of Law, Class of 2020
 Adryan Richardson, Francis King Carey School of Law, Class of 2020
 Alba Sanchez Fabelo, University of Maryland School of Law, Class of 2020
 Alexandra Pritchard, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Class of 2020
 Allison Friedman, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Class of 2020
 Amelia Marsden, University of Maryland School of Law, Class of 2020
 Amia Price, University of Maryland, Class of 2020
 Anamika Roy, University of Maryland School of Law, Class of 2020
 Andryse Leukeu, University of Maryland, Class of 2020
 Blaine Boyd, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Class of 2020
 Brighid S. Tracy, University of Maryland Carey School of Law, Class of 2020
 Brock A. Goldner, University of MD School of Law, Class of 2020
 Christopher Reed, University of Maryland School of Law, Class of 2020
 Christopher Walters, University of Maryland Law School, Class of 2020
 Chukwukpee Nzegwu, Maryland Carey Law, Class of 2020
 Cymone B. Gosnell, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, 2020
 Dan Kang Baker, University of Maryland School of Law, Class of 2020
 Daniel Sanchez, UMB Law 2020
 Daria Pugh, Maryland Law, Class of 2020
 Devon Horine, Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Class of 2020
 Doron Tauber, University of Maryland Carey Law School, Class of 2020
 Dylan Rogers Elliott, University of Maryland School of Law, Class of 2020
 Elaina Michewicz, university of Maryland school of law, class of 2020
 Emily Schenning, University of Maryland, Class of 2020
 Emma Duncan, University of Maryland, 2020
 Felicia Langel, Maryland Carey Law, Class of 2020
 Fiona Jean Puglese, Maryland Carey School of Law, Class of 2020
 Gia Grimm, UMD, Maryland Carey School of Law
 Gina Bohannon, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Class of 2020
 Gina Musto, University of Maryland Law, Class of 2020
 Hannah Coffin, Maryland Carey School of Law, Class of 2020
 Harsha Cuttari, UMD, class of 2020
 Hillary Thanh Pham, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Class of 2020
 Jacob H Dorfman, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Class of 2020

Jacob Sebastian Lichtenbaum, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Class of 2020

Jake Dziubla, UMD Carey School of Law, '20

Jarred Miles, University of Maryland School of Law, class of 2020

Jazzmyne Williams, Maryland Carey Law, Class of 2020

Jeremy Unterborn, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Class of 2020

Jeremy Unterborn, university of Maryland, 2020

Joelys Gonzalez, 2020, Maryland Carey Law

Johanna Carr, Maryland Law, May 2020

Johanna Carr, University of Maryland Law, Class of 2020

Kaitlyn Holzer, Maryland Carey School of Law, Class of 2020

Karla Veronica Perez Chacon, Francis King Carey School of Law, Class of 2020

Kasia Foster, University of Maryland School of Law, Class of 2020

Kellyn Wilcox, Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Class of 2020

Laura Bacon, UMD Law, Class of 2020

Lauren Fash, University of Maryland School of Law, Class of 2020

Madeleine Mateo, University of Maryland, 2020

Margaret Strakna, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law; Class of 2020

Mary Scott, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Class of 2020

Megan Freeman, Maryland Carey Law, Class of 2020

Megan Parkhurst, University of Maryland School of Law, Class of 2020

Megan Sunderland, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Class of 2020

Melia Ritchie, UMB school of law, class of 2020

Michele Sloan, UM Law School, Class of 2020

Nicholas M. Paradis, University of Maryland School of Law, Class of 2020

Nicholle Vo, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Class of 2020

Nicole Sakin, University of Maryland School of Law, Class of 2020

Nicole Sakin, University of Maryland School of Law, Class of 2020

Peter McCullough, Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Class of 2020

Regan Kuo, University of Maryland Carey School of Law, Class of 2020

Samuel P. Morse, University of Maryland School of Law. 2020

Sisi Liu, University of Maryland School of Law, Class of 2020

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Stephanie Eisig, Maryland Carey Law, Class of 2020

Sudipta Das, MD Carey Law, Class of 2020

Susan Ansari, University of Maryland Carey school of law, class of 2020

Tamara Felice Johnson, Univ of Maryland Frances King Carey School of Law 2020

Tamara Johnson, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Class of 2020

Taylor Nichols, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Class of 2020

Thaakirah Cason, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Class of 2020

Thanthulage Supem Madura Fernando, University of Maryland, Carey Law School

Victoria Dohler, University of Maryland, 2020

William Young, Maryland Law School, 2020

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Emily Abell, Widener Commonwealth, Class of 2020

Kimberly Creech, Widener Commonwealth Law School 2020

Terrell Parker, Widener Commonwealth Law School, 2020
Alysa Williams, William & Mary Law School, Class of 2020
Natalie Cardenas, William & Mary Law School, Class of 2020
Rachel Monias, William & Mary Law School, Class of 2020
Daniel J Tafoya Jr., William S. Boyd School of Law, Class of 2020

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Allison K. Regan, New Hampshire Superior Court Law Clerk
Amanda Swietlik, Government attorney
Aradhana Das
Ariel Neumann, University of Maryland Carey School of Law 2019, MD bar membership
Ashley Whidby
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Danielle Newsham
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Eva Gonzalez, FAS LLC
Gail Parker
India James-Flemister, American University Washington College of Law Alumnus
James R. Skamarakas, solo practitioner NY/NJ
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Katie F. Kay, ASA
Kelly Robier
Kenneth D. Schisler
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Kimber A. Russell, Vanguard Advocates, LLP
Lauren Bush
Leigh Goodmark, University of Maryland Carey Law
Lindsey Miller, Law Clerk
Lindsey Rennie, Maryland Office of the Public Defender
Maneka Sinha, Assistant Professor of Law, University of Maryland Carey School of Law
Maria Stamidis, Anne Arundel County State's Attorney's Office
Marrisa Rose, Esq. / Montgomery County Circuit Court
Mathew Swinburne, Network for Public Health Law & University of Maryland School of Law

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Maureen A. Sweeney, University of Maryland Carey School of Law
Michael Pappas, Professor, University of Maryland Carey School of Law
MICHAEL PINARD
Morgan Moone, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law
Paula Monopoli, Sol & Carlyn Hubert Professor of Law, University of Maryland School of Law
Rachel Bogdan
Rebecca Hall, University of Maryland Carey School of Law
Robert Steininger, Children's Legal Services of Baltimore
Russell A. McClain, Law School Professor and Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion,
Carey Law School
Sara Gold, Medical Legal Partnership Clinic, University of Maryland Clinical Law Program
Sarah McHenry, Esq., Legal Aid Society of NYC
Taunya Lovell Banks, Professor, Carey School of Law University of Maryland
The Johns Hopkins University
Toby Guerin, Maryland Carey Law
Tokunbo Ibitoye, University of Maryland Baltimore
W. Timothy Sutton
Will Moon, University of Maryland Carey School of Law
William Piermattei, University of Maryland Carey School of Law

LEGISLATORS

Curt Anderson, MD Delegate
Regina T. Boyce, MD Delegate
Maggie McIntosh, MD Delegate
Mary Washington, MD Senator
Dennis Wood

OTHER SUPPORTERS

Aanchal Domalapally, DPT, PT
Abbey Peters, Architectural Designer
Abigail Hawanchak
Abigail Reynolds, American University Washington College of Law, 2020 Graduate
Abigail Snyder, Legislative Director
Adam Becker
Adam Schaff
Aggie Haslup, Business Consultant and Angel Investor;
Aine Carr
Aisha Ade
Alex Maragos
Alexa Weinstein
Alexa Wood
Alexander Frisbie
Alexander Salem, Georgetown Law '20
Alexandra Kane Ave Maria school of law class of 2022
Alexandra LaFree, 3L student

Alexandra Shapiro
Alexes Jones
Alexis Eidler
Alexis Lilly, South Carolina Bar Applicant
Alexis Stanley, 2020 Loyola Law New Orleans Graduate
Aliyah Canton
Alli Mayes
Allie Albrecht, Community Education and Prevention Coordinator
Allie Varacalle
Allison Baker
Allison Druckemiller, J.D. Candidate 2021
Allison Higgins, Tulane Law Graduate
Allison Pulliam, JD, IU Maurer Law 2020
Allison Silverman
Alonza Stith
Alyson Wood, Asst Dist Mgr-Farmers Ins.
Alyssa Barber
Alyssa Testo, J.D. Candidate Class of 2021
Amanda Campbell
Amanda Pescovitz, GW Law 2020, Candidate for October 2020 DC Bar
Amanda Taylor, Law Student at UB Law, Graduating 12/2020
Amber Kelly, Occupational Therapist
Amelia Grayson, Registered Nurse
Amina ElGammal, Law Student
Amy Mendoza, Disability Services Associate
Amy Wood/Healthcare Executive
Anastasia Araviakis, sister of a student taking the bar exam
Andrea Perry; educator
Andrea Skinner, Special Education Teacher
Andrew Do, DC Bar Candidate
Andrew Glenn, J.D.
Andrew Loewen, 2022 J.D. Candidate, University of Baltimore School of Law
Angel Nordike
Angela Anderson - Doster
Angela Kershner
Angeliki Frangos, MBA, Marketing Professional
Ann Ulick, friend
Anna Borkowski
Anna Halikias
Anna Skamarakas
Anne Blakeslee, M.S.F.F.
Anthony Adams
Anthony Ramirez
Any Currey, LPC, Behavioral Health Consultant
April Mabie, B.S. Biomedical Science
Aqeelah Tarver, respiratory therapist

Arielle Washington
Aryn Barrett, Registered Nurse
Ashik Philip
Ashleah Younker
Audreina Blanding, 1L Law Student
Augustus Billingsley, Financial Reporting Accountant
Awurama Agyei
Bailey Swann, MD public school teacher
Barbara Walls
Ben Weisburg, University of Maryland Law Student
Benjamin Grimes
Bethany Holmes , paralegal
Betty Spengler
Blair Campion, Georgetown JD 2020
Blake M. Marson, MD orthopedic surgeon
Bohne Silber, Doctor of Psychology
Boni Fash
Boni Quatroche, Higher Education Professional
Brad Richards, law school graduate 2020
Bradley Mayer
Brandy Mai, Certified Emergency Manager & current 3L
Brent Tracy
Brett Rose
Breyana Hammond, Rising 2L
Briah Gray, law school
Brian Crosby
Brian Dryer
Brian Son
Brianna Gaddy
Brianna Messina
Brianna Tocci, American University Washington College of Law, Class of 2021
Brittany Williams; AUWCL 2020 Graduate; DC and Florida Bar Candidate
Brittney Schafer, operations manager
Caitrin Cullen
Calli Levine
Cameron Johnson, UMD 2018
Candice Miller, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2021
Candice Spock
Cara Bernardo
Cara Ferraro
Cara Mathers
Carlos Villegas
Carlton D Silver Jr
Carly Brody, University of Maryland School of Law, Class of 2022
Carmen Gloria, Teacher
Caroline Koch - Law Student, American University Washington College of Law

Caroline Scanlon, law student
Carolyn Magura, Retired Human Resources Executive
Cassandra Brumback, law student
Cassandra Green, Member Relations Advisor
Cathy Pizanis
Cecelia Chase
Chanté Solomon
Charles De La Cruz, JD.
Chelsea Hook
Chelsea Reid, friend of law student
Chloe Baier
Chris Elliott
Chris Jordan, Brother
Christa Thornton
Christian Nestor
Christina Janne, Maryland Resident
Christina Martin
Christine E J Cameron, mother and Retired Emergency Room Billing Coordinator
Christine Tanis
Christopher Fulgium Military
Christopher Howes, 2020 D.C. Bar Candidate, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Class of 2020
Christopher Lange, recent law school graduate.
Christopher Luu, friend of to 2020 Bar Exam Candidate
Christopher R. Boy, J.D., Connecticut Bar Exam Applicant.
Claire J. Cashwell, Retired, Senior Acquisitions Specialist
Claire Richie, community college instructor
Clark Elliott, Behavior Data Specialist
Clarke Rich, rising 3L at the University of Baltimore
Claudia Grace Shannon, Class of 2020
Cody Boteler, communications specialist
Colette Colburn, occupational therapist
Colleen L'Etoile, 3L at CUA Law
Connor Mulvey, DC Bar Examinee
Corcoran R Cameron, Metro Access Driver
Coretta Washington, Retired
Corey Ferguson
Cormac White
Corrine Harley
Courtney Hinkle, Georgetown Law, Class of 2021
Courtney Smith, law student at UMB, Class of 2022
CPT Andrew J. McSorley, U.S. Army
CW3 Gerald R. Phillips, USA Retired
Cyleena Rodriguez, educator
Cynthia Arellano, FL Bar Candidate
Cynthia Faris

Cynthia Joyce
Cynthia Spielman
Dan Ellenberger
Dani Stoner
Daniel F Jordan
Daniel Locklear, Strength and Conditioning coach
Daniel Russo, Law Student
Danielle Sunderland
Danya I
Darby Smith
Dasper Young, Operations Analyst
David Finestone
David Kolokolo, current law student
David Nichols
David Patterson, PhD Chemical Biologist
Deanna Dohler..mother paying daughters student loan while patiently waiting for response
Delaney Bradley, J.D., UC Berkeley School of Law '20
Denis Egidio, University of Maryland Carey Law, class of 2022
Denise Rozell
Dennis Wood
Desiree Hall, J.D.
Devika Topiwala
Devin L
Diandra Hyman Graham
Dominique Cavalier
Donald Taejun Song
Doris Louise Johnson
Dr Glenn Silber
Dr. Jay vodela, pharmacologist at Department of justice
Drew E. Tildon, University of Maryland Carey School of Law 2021
Dudley Katz DDS
Ebonee Johnson
Edison Lopez, paralegal
Edna Quatroche
Eduardo González
Edward L. Healy IV, Maryland Law '21
Eileen Frater, Registered Dental Hygienist
Eilis Skamarakas
Ekaterini Araviakis, Bar Examinee Parent
Elena Gartner
Elise Dalzell
Elisha Graham
Eliza Buergenthal, Law Student Class of 2022
Eliza McDermott, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2022
Elizabeth C Katz, CPA Centric Automatic Data Processing
Elizabeth Garcia

Elizabeth Pham, Friend of 2020 Bar Exam Candidate
Elizabeth Prouty
Ellen Franklin
Ellie Burnett, Teacher
Elysia Glasscock, JD- DC applicant
Emilie Mahoney, rising 3L at the University of Maryland School of Law
Emilie Parkhurst, educator
Emily Baker
Emily Brilliant
Emily Canner, Baltimore MD
Emily Haynes
Emily Holden
Emily Osofsky, JD 2020
Emily Perison, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Class of 2022
Emily Samet
Emma Bryant
Emma Cross, UMD School of Law, Class of 2022
Emma Ragon, marketing coordinator
Emmanuel Ruan
Enaetia Johnson,retired
Eric Dorsch
Erica Parkhurst
Erika Caton
Erin Gary
Erin Roche, University of Maryland School of Law Class of 2022
Erin Weinstock
Esteban Garcia, Johns Hopkins University Class of 2023
Estefannia Reynoso
Esther Lee, forensic social worker
Faith US Navy
Fennessa sloan parent
Fotios Araviakis, Bar Examinee Parent
Frank Simkins, IT Consultant
Future therapist
Gabi Shifflett
Gabriela Castro
Gabriela Chang
Gabrielle Murphy, University of Maryland Law School Student, Class of 2022
Gail L Jordan
Gail Parker
Gaila E Wood
Gemiqua Benjamin, Regulatory Compliance Analyst
George Smith
Gillian Plenty - School Counselor and parent of a 3L student
Gina Liu, software engineer
Gisele Smith, PR Professional

Glenn E. Ulick, Senior Brokerage Associate
Grace Imhoff, Law Student
Grace Lennon
Grace Skamarakas
Gretchen Garcia, J.D., licensed to practice in Missouri
Guadalupe Valenzuela
Hadassah Bauerle, law student at University of Baltimore
Hailey Barnett, J.D., Tulane University Law School
Haleigh Morgus
Hanan Zaki, J.D., LL.M
Hanna Leonard
Hanna Vohra, 3L at UMD Carey Law
Hannah Tatreau
Heather Kierzek, JD, 2020 IL Bar Candidate
Hya qasmieh
Ignacio Brown, J.D. candidate, class of 2021, Maryland Carey Law
Imelda De Los Santos
Ivanna Gallesi
Jaclyn Iskra
Jacob Wall, J.D., Duke Law School, 2020
Jada Dale
Jake Brodie, Aquatics Engineer
Jake Ulick
James Denton
James Flynn
James Reid
Janet Ward
Janet Wyse
Jared Bundy, Marketing Director
Jasmine Bruce, RN
Jasmine Jefferson, mental health provider
Jasmine Marcelo
Jasmine Martinez, JD candidate 2021
Jason Christie
Jason Dagenhart, Public High School Teacher and law student
Jazzmin Lee, RN
Jean Cullinan, parent of law graduate
Jeff Martin
Jeffrey Abney, University of Maryland Law School, Class of 2021
Jeffrey Dahne, property manager
Jenna Bednarz, Emergency Room Nurse
Jenna McGee
Jenna Russo, 2020 DC Bar Candidate, American University Washington College of Law '20
Jennesa Wilson, University of Oklahoma College of Law, Class of 2020, Texas Bar Applicant
Jennifer Frederick, Rising 2L
Jennifer Fuentes

Jennifer Louise Crisp, RN
Jennifer Nguyen, friend of 2020 Bar Exam Candidate
Jennifer Reynolds
Jessica Baiza
Jessica Beckman, J.D.
Jessica Bowersox, English Teacher
Jessica D. Weber, U Baltimore Law student
Jessie Link
Jodee Finestone
Jodie Silver
Joel Scott, Transportation Manager
John A. Braun, President & Chairman of the Board, Dynamis, Inc.
John G Haslup, civil engineer, supports the Court of Appeals waiving the Md. Rule 19-201(a)(3) requirement for all July 2020 Maryland Bar applicants
John Karpinski, 3L Law Student at Maryland Law School
Johnathan Chiccino
Jonathan Dorsch
Jonathan Johnson, Maryland state employee
Jonathan Yuen, J.D. Candidate
Jordan Bayless
Jordan Brockell
Jordan Cook, law student, UB class of 2021
Jordan Culley, Class of 2021
Jordan Fisher, J.D. Candidate 2021 University of Maryland
Juan Almonte graphic designer
Juan D. Parcerro, c/o '20 law school graduate
Jubitza Antayhua
Julia Brewer
Julia Zambelli, LACMH
Julianne Berg
Julie Gearty, University of Maryland Law, J.D.
Julie Oakes, Ph.D., Asst. Director of the Honors College, UMBC
Julie-Ann Elliott
June Moore
Jung Yong Lee, law student
Kahlil Chan, Clinical Study Coordinator
Kailey Silverstein, University of Maryland JD 2020, Applicant for the Colorado Bar July 2020
Kaitlin Barnes, incoming law student
Kallie Butts, University of Baltimore JD Candidate 2021
Kanchan Swaroop, Technical Advocacy Associate
Karin Goitman, recent graduate
Karla R. Martinez, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, Class of 2020
Karyn J Patterson
Katelyn Chiccino, Content Analyst
Katherine Burgess, University of Baltimore, JD candidate 2021
Katherine Plumley, recent law school graduate

Kathleen Hoke
Kathleen Lambe
Kathleen S. Villatoro
Kathryn Baxter, Law student in Maryland
Kathryn Magura
Katie Byrd
Katie Lapidus
Katie martin
Kayla Boyer
Kayla Coleman, Illinois Law School Graduate
Kayla White
Kaylee Carroll
Kayleigh Harper
Keadija Wiley, Graduate Student
Keith Levine
Kelly Ann Colby, 3rd year PsyD student
Kelly Pereboom
Kelly Price
Kelly Rogers-Elliott
Kelsey Connell, teacher
Kelsey Lear, Law Student
Kelsey Robinson, current law student, University of Maryland, Class of 2021
Kelsey Williams, University of Maryland Carey Law Class of 2021
Kelsi Shanley
Kevin Albano, J.D. Candidate (May, 2021)
Kevin Aldana
Kevin Mok
Kevin Redden
Kiara Pillay, JD
Kirk Douglas Bell
Kirsten Caleon, healthcare administrator
Klara K
Kori Van Heest
Kristen Barboun
Kristin Wells, JD Candidate 2021
Kristin Zacarias
Krystala Skordalos
Krystalee George, resume writer
Kyana Miller
Kyle G. Jamolin, Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law, Class of 2019
Kyle Hoegenauer
LaSina Branch
Laura Gevarter, rising 3L and future MD bar candidate
Laura Hodges
Laura Martinez, engineer
Lauren Fadh

Lauren Petrin, Graduating law student
Lauren Scheid, JD (Indiana)
Lauren Wotring
Laurie Simpson, concerned citizen and educator
LeBrit Nickerson, Maryland Carey Law Class of 2021
Leisha Winley, nonprofit deputy director
Leon Stern, Washington College of Law, VA bar applicant
Leslie Castello, Washington College of Law, Class of 2020
Lily Gregorio
Lily Merritt, Maryland resident
Limayli Huguet, J.D. 2020 and District of Columbia Bar Candidate
Linda Kreshtool
Lindsey Helton
Lisa Bader, concerned citizen
Lisa Blitstein, JD Candidate, UB Law 2022
Lisa kovacs, MPA Student
Lisa Varnauskas, Special Education Teacher
Logan Z. Pontius, Active Duty Military
Lori Gerstley
Lynne Grimm, Mom
M Joel Morse DPM. Podiatrist
Madeleine Dwyer, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Class of 2022
Madeline Fash
Madison Pinckes
Madison Short, self-employed; small business owner
Maggie Friel
Maggie Klaes
Marc Robert Quint
Marcia Monnnett
Maria Ellenberger
Maria Kasotakis
Maria Nasios, School Psychologist
Maria Stratienko, Rising 3L student, American University Washington College of Law
Mariah Garza
Mariellen Kemp, Non-Profit manager
Marisa Pechillo
Mark Shapiro
Marvin Bryant, Sr.
Mary Almonte Nurse technician
Mary E Medley
Mary Simonsen, Retired Federal Service Employer
Mary-Margaret Hertz, Renewable Energy PM
Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling
Matt Heiland
Matthew A Horton II, VANDERBILT JD 2020
Matthew Large

Matthew McKie, J.D., University of South Carolina School of Law
Matthew Meyers, DDS (Dentist)
Matthew Morris, Tennessee Bar applicant and Maryland Carey Law Alumnus
Matthew Sampson
Matthew Williams, law student
Max Ditlevson, Pharmacist
Maya Foster - Law Student
Maya Lowe, 2022 JD Candidate
Megan Bell
Megan Cox, 2L law student
Megan Esherick
Megan Hill
Megan Michelson, Law Clerk at Semmes, Bowen & Semmes
Megan Ortiz, JD, Nevada
Megan Winborne, Social Worker
Meghan Keefe, Future Doctorate of Chiropractic (class of December 2020)
Mekia Rodney
Mel Babb, 3L law student.
Melina Quiroz, Incoming 1L
Melissa Lange
Melissa Martinez
Melyssa Fatig
Meredith Tolleson (AUWCL 2020; DC Bar applicant)
Michael
Michael MacNeill, 2020 DC bar applicant
Michael Perkins
Michael Sawyer
Michael Scott
Michaela Mellerson, Collection Specialist
Michele Culley, educator
Michele Shelton
Michelle Nichols
Michelle Pham, sister to 2020 Bar Exam Candidate
Michelle Sidle, rising 3L at Maryland Carey Law
Michelle Villegas, MD Bar Examinee 2019
Milan Flanagan, Registered Nurse
Miriam Hirsch, 2020 Hofstra Law Graduate
Mohan C Hemnani
Mohan Hemnani, parent of bar applicant
Mollie Soloway, JD candidate 2021, University of Maryland
Molly Shaffer, UB School of Law, Class of 2021
Molly Silber, pediatrician
Monica Woolley, Georgetown University Law Center, Class of 2020
Morgan Becker, kindergarten teacher
Morgan Celistan, DMD
Morgan DiPietro

Mychal Giansanti, J.D. Rutgers Law School, 2020
Naomi Shapiro
Naomi Shapiro
Naseam Jabberi; 2021 JD Candidate
Nashrah Ahmed, Washington College of Law Class of 2020
Natalie Aldrich, Senior Market Research Manager
Nathan Hunt, University of Maryland Carey School of Law, Class of 2019
Nathanael Buckman, Law Student, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Class of 2022
Nicholette Stachowiak
Nico Gentry
Nicolas Valderrama, 2L at CUA Law
Nicole Bozzella, rising 3L at Maryland Carey Law
Nida Imtiaz, Florida State University College of Law, Class of 2022
Nihir Nanavaty, 2L, Drexel Law School, Maryland Native
Nina Carter, Educator
Nivializ Ramos
Noemi Schor, former MD resident, current NJ Bar Candidate
Norbert J. Cashwell, Senior Procurement Analyst
Olivia Gordon
Ousmane Sow
Parker Runge
Patricia J McEvoy, retired BGE Engineer and retired Baltimore County Public School
Paul Wenta Kuo
Perla Cherfane, friend of 2020 Bar Exam Candidate
Phoebe Varunok, 3L American University Washington College Law, Class of 2021
Porfirio Gueiros
Porfirio Gueiros, J.D. 2020, University of Florida Levin College of Law
Poulomi Banerjee
Professor Amy Froide
Rachael D. Sturgis, MPH
Rachel Feldman
Rachel Fishman, teacher
Rachel Langert
Rachel Shekell, American University Washington College of Law, Class of 2020
Raina Back, High School educator
Ramie Michelle Frantz, General Manager
Randal Frantz
Randi Burton
Raneika White, Marketing Specialist
Reagan V. Atkins
Rebecca Carlone, JD Candidate Class of 2021
Rebecca Guay UB Law, 2022
Rebecca Haddaway
Rebekkah Davis, Friend of 2020 Bar Exam Candidate
Renee Jefferson

Revae Boykins
Richard Kidney, rising 2L at Maryland Law
Riley Aldridge- Assistant Director of Admission- University of Maryland School of Law
Ritika malkani law student
Robert Hockenbury, JD candidate University of Maryland School of Law
Robert Obleton
Robert Sands, 2020 law grad, NJ bar exam taker
Robin Dorris
Robin Gaskins, University of Baltimore, School of Law, J.D. Candidate, Dec. 2020
Robin S.H.Mentzer,Ph.D; retired educator
Rodney Aguirre, Installation Restoration and Munitions Response Program Coordinator
Rosey Tracy, nurse
Rumbi Kapfumvuti - 4th year Medical student
Ryan D'Souza, Law Student, Class of 2022
Ryan McCarthy
Sabrina Spence, Teacher
Sabrina Tashiro
Safa Ansari-Bayegan
Sahar Takshi, law graduate
Sam Boden, law student
Samantha Chan, current law student class of 2021
Samantha Jones, Air Force Officer
Samantha Lasley, J.D. Candidate 2021, Georgetown University Law Center
Samantha Levy, federal consultant
Samantha Pontius
Samuel Sunderland
Sangeetha Kannan, law student
Sara Ellis
Sara Strei, rising 3L law student at American University Washington College of Law
Sarah Abutaleb (Rising 3L at Maryland Law)
Sarah DeYoung, Stanford Law School '22
Sarah Kennedy, public health researcher
Sarah Onimus, nuclear engineer
Sarah Shor, 2L at American University Washington College of Law
Sarah Steinberg UB law class of 2023
Sarah Wallack
Savita Hemnani, parent of bar applicant
Scott Wood
Selena gaddy
Shabreya Spry
Shabreya Spry
Shannon Johnson, American University Washington of Law, Class of 2021
Sharmila Das, PhD PharmD
Sharmistha Das, orthopedic trauma
Sharon Kimel
Sharon Owens

Shelbe Corrin Hubbard
Shelley Ensor
Shenee Lopez
Shianna Thompson, Radiology Specialist
Shirley Johnson
Shoubry Sos, Friend of 2020 Bar Exam Candidate
Sidhatha Sem, spouse of future lawyer
Sidney Skervin
Sierra Rubin, Veterinarian
Sierra Ward
Sophia Buck
Sophie Chen
Sophie Ridgway
Spencer P. Yaffe, University of Baltimore
Spreeha Choudhury, law student
Spring A. Gaines, JD/LLM Candidate
Stacey Ditlevson
Stacy Lee, JD 2020
Stavros Rologas
Stephan Doyle
Stephanie DeLang, University of Baltimore School of Law, Class of 2021
Stephanie Haddad, law student
Stephanie Malchine, Maryland Carey School of Law, Class of 2020, DC Bar Applicant
Sudharshan Shankar
Summer Akhtar; law student
Susan Espinoza Kuo
Susan Katz
Susan Marson
Susan McDonough, Associate Professor of History
Susann Shin
Sydney Chanmugam, law student class of 2021
Sydney Gaskins, Future Attorney
Sydney Goetz
Sydney Mark, class of 2020, NY bar taker
Szu-Aun Lim, Medical Student
Talia Cowen
Tamara Hyndman - JD 2020
Tamara Johnson
Tanisha Owens, educator
Taylor Clark
Taylor Dillon, nursing student
Taylor Fadrowski, registered nurse
Teddy Ahishakiye
Teresa Snyder, MBA student
TERRY L MILLER
Thalia Garcia, 2020 Law Graduate.

Theresa Goldsmith, special education teacher
Thomas Goshen Barker
Tiana Boardman, 3LE, University of Baltimore School of Law
Tim Phin, faculty at UMBC
Tim Weyers
Tim Wood
Timothy J Kerr JR, United States Navy
Timothy Kelly, law school grad
Toby Morse, parent of 2020 Law School Grad
Tonda Hall, Business Owner and Corporate Admin
Tonya Foley, J.D. Candidate, Maryland Carey Law, Class of 2021
Tracy Steele
Trey Barkley Wilson
Trisha Speeg, J.D., Esq.; Louisiana Emergency Licensure Qualified Candidate
Tyler Goldsborough, UBALT Law class of 2023.
Tyler Pollock, Baltimore City SAO Admin Assistant
Tynequa Spry
USC Gould 2020 law graduate
Valencia Richardson, Georgetown University Law Center (L'20)
Veronica Faison, law student 2021
Vickie Sneed, Victim Court Advocate
Victoria Dickinson
Victoria Starner, pediatric Physician Assistant
Vincent Quatroche
Virginia Phillips, retired Federal Employee from Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD
Virginia Sturgill, 2L at the University of Maryland Francis Carey King School of Law
Vishal Hemnani
Warren Chu, Columbia Law School '21
Wendy Porter
Will Mabry law clerk
William David Caton
William Fitzgerald
William Lewis
William Sasse University of Baltimore JD candidate 2021
Y Balasaria
Yasmine Farassat
Ysabel Mullarky, WA JD candidate and former Healthcare Professional
Zachary Bader
Zachary Currie
Zachary Garmoe
Zachary Lee, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Class of 2020
Zoey Stefaniak

Appendix B: Personal Impact Statements

Of the 192 submissions to the Maryland bar Impact Survey, seventy-four respondents submitted an Impact Statement. Petitioners pulled eight to share with the Court.

Testimonial No. 9: I graduated from an out-of-state law school, which I attended due to a scholarship that made it cheaper than in-state options, in May of 2019. I was offered a JD-advantage job in New York right out of law school, and therefore have not previously take[n] the bar exam. However, due to COVID, I was sadly laid off from my job but was told I could be hired again in a traditional legal capacity should I be licensed to practice law in New York. Given New York had limited seating for the July administration of the UBE/suggested I sit elsewhere, combined with the fact I am from Maryland, am currently living here, and did not want to travel during the pandemic, I registered to take the Maryland UBE. However, the SBLE's multiple decisions to delay the bar exam and cancel the portability of this year's Maryland UBE have had a life-changing impact on me. I now will have to look for legal work exclusively in Maryland as I cannot afford to wait another six months to take a UBE, and I may have to find work beginning in August while still studying since I was only planning on being without income through July. I humbly ask for diploma privilege like that provided in Washington, which will not discriminate against me for 1) going to a below-86% pass rate for first-time-test-takers/out-of-state law school (which I only went to due to financial constraints) nor for 2) not being a 2020 grad (I was laid off/have never previously sat for the bar), and 3) ideally, will allow for a traditional UBE administration in September should I so choose (I understand this ship has likely sailed, along with my dream of returning to New York anytime soon). I hope you hear my plea. Thank you very much.

Testimonial No. 12: First, I want to address the elephant in the room: the Class of 2020 is not seeking Diploma Privilege to avoid preparing for, and taking, the bar exam. We are seeking Diploma Privilege so that we can start our careers. Careers which we have pushed ourselves for years to prepare for. Many of us have jobs contingent on bar admission. Many of those jobs have started or will start soon, making bar preparation an insurmountable task—especially for those who cannot take time just prior to the exam. Yet others struggle to find jobs in a frail economy and are forced to balance that stress with the constant changes to the bar exam.

Beyond concerns over starting the career we are all so passionately seeking, there are other barriers complicating life for the Class of 2020. Student loans, families, relocation, access to reliable resources to take the exam, among others. We have been put in a situation that we did not ask for. We finished the hardest educational studies of our lives, remotely. Some of us have started bar studies at least three times, exhausting resources on content areas that we hope we can remember in October. We are studying the same way, putting ourselves through constant stress for half of an exam, which provides a non-portable score so that we have some chance at starting our careers, and paying back loans. Many of us do not have the luxury of waiting until February so we are forced to acquiesce.

I am a non-traditional student. I have a family who depend on me, who have watched me go through law school. They have also watched my stress, frustration and devastation over the uncertainty of this situation. I am responsible for three children. That means four additional human beings that I account for during bar studies. I would normally escape to a quiet place such as a library. I can't. When the remote administration comes, those human beings will either be here at home, or will require childcare. If they are still involved in remote learning at that point, I cannot say that my internet will be reliable. I cannot say that I will be distraction free. I can say that my situation puts me at risk for not being as successful on the bar exam.

We have been placed in an extraordinary situation. We understand that the bar exam is a time-honored tradition. We also understand that time will not stop for us, loans will not stop for us, employment cannot be put on hold, and life must go on.

Testimonial No. 13: The delay in the exam by three months has pushed my start date back causing me to lose wages which I will never be able to earn since my job is a one year position. Additionally, the delay in my start date will leave me without health insurance for over two months. I am not in a financial position to afford short term coverage. I have prescriptions I need to fill in that time period; I will not be able to afford those prescriptions without insurance. The compounded effect of my parents' situation (being high risk and their source of incomes relying on caring for a group of high risk persons), the delay in the test, and the changes to my employment and healthcare coverage have caused me severe anxiety and stress. I have always been the type of person who handles change and adversity fairly well but the constant worry about my parents and their business paired with concerns about my own health and wellbeing has made life incredibly difficult and thinking of the future terrifying.

Testimonial No. 18: COVID-19 created unanticipated challenges for practically every individual and ever family. This experience showed us there are many businesses and organizations who are willing to step up and help individuals recover and get through this difficult time. I urge the SBLE and the Court of Appeals to do the same.

I attended law school with zero supports. I had no one in my family in the legal field, I was one of the first people in my family to go to college. I had worked full time to afford college, as I was on my own financially starting at age 17. However, I persevered, because I believed I had the chance to make an impact on my community. During law school (against the school's advice), I worked two jobs as a cashier and a gym attendant so I could afford rent and my basic necessities. I later got a job at a legal services organization, where I fell in love with public interest law. I was looking forward to working there as a staff attorney following the bar exam - I had attended the first interview and was told the second interview was just a "formality," and they were happy to have me come aboard.

Then, COVID-19. Even after the organization had to lay me off, they said they were still hoping to bring me on board as a staff attorney. But when the bar was postponed, that all changed. Suddenly, the organization could not hold a position for me for an additional five months until I would be able to be sworn in. Any opportunities i had to come back to that organization even as a

paralegal we're not longer available, as they lost some of their funding. I went from a clear vision of my future to nothing overnight.

Law school itself and the legal field are very elitist environments. I have witnessed firsthand how they misunderstand the plight that many of us are currently facing. I have no job, and have no idea how I will make rent in the upcoming months. I do not have family members to loan me money or even to move in with for the time being. I do not know how I am supposed to be unemployed for the next five to seven months. I will likely have to take a job as a waitress or cleaning staff in order to make ends meet, but that is if businesses even fully open any time soon. I find it extremely challenge to try to focus on studying for the bar, because I am so terrified at all times of what is going to happen.

These are extreme and unforeseen circumstances. However, that means they require a solution that reflects those circumstances. Diploma privilege should be that solution. It would not be a free pass or an easy way out, it would just allow law school graduates to survive the next five to seven months until they are able to safely take the bar exam and be sworn in. I urge your to try to put yourselves in our shoes, and make a decision that reflect the circumstances in which we find ourselves. Thank you for your time.

Testimonial No. 27: The Bar Exam and bar prep is something that has been known for its structure- a nine to ten week intense course to prepare you for the exam. This year, bar prep has turned into a chaotic mess. I started bar prep a little early, to make bar prep a little less stressful, and now I will be studying for almost SIX months until the October exam instead of 10 weeks. Not only is that exhausting, it is unfair.

The limbo that we have been placed in since April has taken such a huge toll on my mental health and the mental health of my classmates and friends. During the bar prep course we are given strategies and techniques on how to take the exam- write notes in margins, highlight, cross multiple choice answers out, etc. None of these apply to this new remote exam. So what do now that we have paid \$3,000 for bar prep and the techniques and strategies that they teach us, we can no longer use? Our bar prep course has also given us advice on what subjects to focus on more based on how the proportion of multiple choice questions that the UBE gives. What do we do now that this information may longer be valid? How do we prepare? Our bar prep courses tell us to take practice exams under exam-like conditions. How do we do that if we do not have access to the bar exam software? Will be using the software for the first time ever on October 5th and 6th? I, like many of my peers, live at home with family. I am one of five people in my house. This makes it nearly impossible to find four or more quiet hours in the day to study, listen to lectures, write out essays, and more. It also gives me no quiet, private space to take the bar exam in October! Since my first year of law school, I have been relying on doing bar prep at school and taking the exam in the Convention Center, not at home. I explored the idea of possibly getting a hotel room to take the exam in; however, due to coronavirus, many hotels are still closed and I am should not have to spend an additional couple hundred dollars to take the exam after I have already spent almost \$4,000 on the application and bar prep. Not to mention I am in such financial hardship because I lost my job due to the coronavirus.

Additionally, the neighborhood I live in has so many trees. This causes our tv and internet to go out for a minute or two and then come back on. I am terrified that this would happen during the exam and I would lose everything I have worked so hard on these past few years. To add to all of this, I am starting my judicial clerkship in August. This means that I have to now study for the bar exam and work full time for the two months leading up to the exam, something I NEVER planned on doing. This would make it extremely difficult for me to adequately prepare for the exam. Also, this would require that I use some of my sick-leave to take off work for the exam. This is extremely unfair to force us to do. I have an autoimmune disorder and I was relying on having those days in case I have a bad flare-up. My peers and I should not have to go through this. On the topic of clerkships, will an October bar exam delay the raise that clerks receive for passing the bar exam? Some of us are relying on that to be able to pay our extremely high student loans. I fear that this would force me to seek outside employment, such as serving or hostessing, on weekends.

Lastly, we paid to take a UBE exam with a portable score. The fact that the exam score is non-portable makes things extremely unfair for students like myself, that planned on practicing in D.C. one day. Some of us will not be in a financial position to take more time off work to study and take the D.C. bar exam at a later day. This is not what we signed up for. I have admired the legal profession since I was a little girl. As a first generation college student, and a first generation law student, I have dreamed about the opportunity to take the bar exam, and practice law; however, this experience has made it very difficult for me to keep that same feeling of excitement. All I feel is unsure. Unsure about my ability to adequately prepare for the bar exam at home, unsure about my ability to take the bar exam from home, and unsure about my ability to pass the bar exam given all of these added complications. I know this are unprecedented times for all of us; however, I ask that you hear us out, listen to our struggles, take them into consideration, and allow for diploma privilege in Maryland.

Testimonial No. 42: I am a mother of a four year old, and caretaker of an elderly person. I am unable to entertain the notion of in-person examination because of the risk in which it would place my family. While the online exam that SBLE proposed appears superficially promising, it is only so for those considered "traditional" law school graduates. The reality of being a "non-traditional" graduate with a family whose health and security I must consider, paired with the COVID-19 shut down that removed safe childcare and reliable study options, has given me no choice but to attempt to prepare for an uncertain exam, for an uncertain period, in an uncertain and often chaotic environment. I must effectively choose between caring for my family and preparing for what is likely the most crucial obstacle in my adult professional life. In addition, prolonging the period in which I cannot practice as an attorney, while simultaneously asking this graduate to repay loans that I had to use to finance my way through law school, is an emotional hurdle I have yet to overcome, and an economic hurdle I am terrified to face; my livelihood depends in part on my ability to earn in a field I worked so long and hard to join.

Testimonial No. 44: The delay in the bar examination has impacted my life in many ways. This has impacted my mental health, my relocation for my post graduation job, and more.

To begin, I accepted my post graduation job in December of 2019. While the start date is determined by the employer, it left me plenty of time to take the exam in July, and then be able to focus on relocation in August. With the exam being pushed back to first September and then October, I have had to rearrange my schedule for relocation. Once I learned about the exam being moved to September, I extended my current lease in Maryland so I would not have to travel back to the state to sit for the exam. Now the exam date has again been moved to October and it is virtual, extending my lease did not have the intended benefits. In addition, I have to figure out juggling relocation and studying for the bar exam, even though I had hoped to study for the bar exam full time in month leading up to the exam to ensure that I am able to pass. In addition, while I plan to purchase an internet plan for my new residence, I am uncertain of company policies of internet providers regarding in home installation in September/October.

Not only has there been an impact on my relocation plans. My job gives me 18 months from my start date to be admitted to the bar. However, in my position, like many others offered to graduates, there is eligibility for a raise upon being admitted to the bar. Given the cost of living and my student loans, I need to be raise-eligible as soon as possible. Even the difference of a few months is the difference of hundreds of dollars that I could be paying back on my student loans in an attempt to reduce future interest costs. Student loan payments are due after my grace period whether or not I am admitted to the bar. In addition, I have to start my job on September 14th, regardless of when the exam is administered. I will not have accrued paid time off by then and may be allowed to "borrow" paid time off from future pay periods. While I am grateful to even have a job in this economy, those are 16 hours of paid time off that I had planned to save for any possible emergencies. Unfortunately, my mother is not in good health and suffers from an autoimmune disease and can take a turn for the worse quickly. It is important to me that I can save this paid time off so I can travel to see her if an issue were to arise. Not only is this time off a concern, but that I will also be taking the exam within a few weeks of starting my new position. This will require me to attempt to balance excelling at my new job along with making sure I am adequately prepared for the exam.

In addition to these logistical concerns, the uncertainty of the exam has taken a toll on my mental health. This uncertainty has drastically increased my levels of anxiety. I have had to reach out to my primary care physician several times in the past few months to seek advice and treatment for coping with my anxiety. It is extremely difficult to even concentrate on studying for the bar exam when I have so many other plans that have had to be changed due to the rescheduling of the exam multiple times. It also difficult to study when there is uncertainty about the exam itself. Even though this remote option seems like it might work, this has not been done before in the history of the bar exam. I have started studying several times only to be told to stop because the exam was rescheduled again. I have concerns whether this remote exam will be administered, given logistical issues that may not even be foreseeable yet. This uncertainty has haunted me since even before I submitted my intent to sit for the exam. Realizing that the pandemic had changed the way we would be finishing out my final semester of law school added growing concerns about the bar exam. The exam having been rescheduled twice and now being planned for a remote administration, which has not been done before, has only increased my anxiety and uncertainty around the situation.

Additionally, it has been difficult to concentrate on studying in general from my home. I had planned to use the law library to study for the bar exam, but the building has been closed since March. Even though I live on my own I still have other responsibilities such as caring for my dogs and working on two start up online businesses. I had to start these businesses as a result of the pandemic since the industry that I had been working in to support myself through college and law school has been halted by the pandemic. Even though starting these businesses during bar prep is not ideal, I have had to adjust my means of income to be able to pay for basic necessities.

Overall, there have been so many aspects of my life that have been impacted due to the multiple changes in the examination date and the method of the examination. I have had to completely change my relocation plans for my post graduation job, my timing of a potential raise has been impacted, and the increase of an anxiety due to the uncertainty of the exam. This is just my personal impact alone, and I know that there are many others that struggle with these and other issues. I hope that the Court of Appeals and the SBLE kindly take these concerns into account to make an important decision that has an impact on so many lives.

Testimonial No. 56: Hello Court and SBLE, I would be lying by not telling you all that I am very unhappy with your decision to postpone the bar to October at home online. Both my boyfriend of 8 years and I finished law school and must take the exam at home in our 800 square foot apartment. We are in student debt over \$350,000 because we decided to do law school here in Maryland. I have high blood pressure and he has a highly compromised immune system. Our families live far away from Maryland, our closest relatives are in heavily infected New York City, and our friends are all taking the bar at their parent's homes. We have nowhere to go. In our apartment, the internet box is controlled from a centralized location on site that sometimes switches on and off randomly, thus causing us to temporarily lose internet for anywhere from 10-30 minutes. Moreover, the guy who lives above us is loud and always blares music or fights with the woman he is living with. On top of all of this, my boyfriend lost his post-graduate job offer due to Covid-19 and I will start working as a law clerk to a judge in August. As such, I will be supporting us both with my income and I will have healthcare, but I need to pay his as well because our savings accounts are low because we are Millennials and have been in school our entire lives. As such, I will be both studying and working at the same time just to pass your exam. So that will be our testing conditions in our apartment. I do not know anyone who thinks these testing conditions for this exam are cool and acceptable. It is simply not. If I fail, I do not know if I will have the time to study in time to pass the February 2021 bar exam. We do not even know when we will receive a grade for the exam. You all have not been transparent at all in this process and randomly switch dates on us. We are at your mercy in this situation, but my faith in this system under your leadership is low and negative. You all are serving as examples for me of what not to do when handling a crisis, which is to be opaque and switch dates on people and give them no guidelines at all in the situation all while taking our money for the exam. Please do better, I want to believe in you all again and I can again if Diploma Privilege is granted or requirements to pass the bar exam are lowered. We are counting on you all to do what is fair and reasonable considering the awful circumstances and excruciating debt we are under. Please see where I am coming from, it is from a place of hurt and despair.