

THE SUPREME COURT

STATE OF WASHINGTON



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Message from the Washington Supreme Court regarding July 2026 NextGen Bar Exam:

We strive to make the process of becoming an attorney licensed to practice in the State of Washington one that is equitable, fair, and rigorous. We know that this week's NextGen bar exam administration failure caused examinees extraordinary stress. Those examinees have spent years studying in hopes of becoming licensed attorneys, with especially intense study for this exam over the last few months. More than anything at this moment, we want to convey our apologies for what the examinees experienced. We want to thank the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) staff who worked diligently with the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) to try to resolve the issues related to testing. We are grateful to the on-site staff who tried to address the technological issues.

We are hearing from examinees, law school deans, members of the WSBA Board of Governors, among many others, all of whom urge us to take swift action to rectify this situation. We are actively engaged in fully understanding what happened and working with WSBA and the NCBE toward a timely solution.

To all affected examinees, we know that taking the bar exam is extremely stressful in the best of circumstances. We are receiving your letters to the court. We hear you. We endeavor to address the uncertainty deliberately and want to get our response right. We know you are under significant pressure and strain and have many unanswered questions. We appreciate your patience, and we know you are waiting anxiously. Please know we are working to obtain more information, examine options, and identify avenues to resolution. We will communicate our plans moving forward as we make those decisions and are working to have a comprehensive response as soon as we can.