

Ultimate Bar Passage Rates: Which Law Schools Are Overperforming and Underperforming Expectations

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INTRODUCTION

According to the American Bar Association, bar passage rates are “the single best outcome measure . . . in assessing whether a law school is maintaining a ‘rigorous program of legal education.’”¹ Bar passage rates are better measures of the quality of legal education than graduation rates or employment results, for these outcomes “are not as directly relevant . . . to determining whether a law school is offering an educational program that is comprehensive and sufficiently rigorous. . . .”² A law school’s bar passage rate is a metric of the quality of its graduates *and* its educational program.³

Bar passage rates are—and should be—important to all law students and potential law students. Students

are entitled . . . to an education that provides them with a reasonable chance of passing the bar and entering the profession. . . . [L]aw students often incur substantial debt to earn a law degree. Whether students pass the bar influences their future livelihood and quality of life immensely, including their abilities to pay back their loans while maintaining an acceptable quality of life.⁴

Actually, law school graduates who fail to pass a bar exam end up in worse financial shape than those who decide not to pursue a legal education.⁵ It is only fair, therefore, that prospective law students be

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1. Am. Bar Ass’n, Section of Legal Educ. & Admissions to the Bar, *Revisions to Standard 316: Frequently Asked Questions* 1, https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/legal_education_and_admissions_to_the_bar/council_reports_and_resolutions/may19/3-19-may-316-faq.pdf (last visited May 15, 2022) [hereinafter *Revisions to Standard 316: Frequently Asked Questions*].

2. *Id.* at 2.

3. Carrie M. Poniewaz, *Teach to the Test?*, FLA. BAR NEWS (Oct. 15, 2006) (quoting University of Florida Dean Robert Jerry).

4. *Revisions to Standard 316: Frequently Asked Questions*, *supra* note 1, at 3.

5. Jane Yakowitz, *Marooned: An Empirical Investigation of Law School Graduates Who Fail the Bar Exam*, 60 J. LEG. EDUC. 3, 40 (2010).

aware of their chances of passing a bar exam before choosing a law school.

Approximately 10% of law school graduates never pass a bar exam.⁶ The failure rate is even higher for African-American and Hispanic graduates.⁷ For the class of 2019, 6% of white graduates never passed a bar exam, while 19% of African-American and 13% of Hispanic graduates never passed a bar exam.⁸ Moreover, the consequences of never passing a bar exam are dire:

Law school graduates who never pass a bar exam have a very difficult “first term.” Five to ten years out of law school, they lag well behind lawyers on every measure—earnings, employment stability, even marriage and divorce rates. Moreover, as a group, they fare worse than college graduates, despite their better-than-average undergraduate grades.⁹

Statistically, students with higher undergraduate grade point averages (UGPA) and LSAT scores are more likely to pass the bar exam than students with lower UGPAs and LSAT scores.¹⁰ As a result, a predicted bar passage rate may be calculated for each law school based upon its UGPA and LSAT scores.¹¹ Once a predicted bar passage rate is calculated, it is possible to determine which law schools are overperforming or underperforming in terms of preparing their students

6. *Id.* at 3. Ms. Yakowitz’s findings are consistent with ABA reports. For example, in the graduating class of 2019, 8.83% of law school graduates never passed a bar exam and law schools had no information about another .98% of graduates. *Statistics*, AM. BAR ASS’N, https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/statistics/?q=&wt=json&start=0 (last visited May 15, 2022) (scroll down and select “2019 Ultimate Bar Pass Data”).

7. Yakowitz, *supra* note 5, at 3.

8. See Am. Bar Ass’n, Section of Legal Educ. & Admissions to the Bar, *Summary of Bar Passage Data: Race, Ethnicity, and Gender*, https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/legal_education_and_admission_s_to_the_bar/statistics/2022/2022-bpq-national-summary-data-race-ethnicity-gender-fin.pdf (last visited May 15, 2022).

9. Yakowitz, *supra* note 5, at 4.

10. See, e.g., Jeffrey S. Kinsler & Jeffrey O. Usman, *Law Schools, Bar Passage, and Under and Over-Performing Expectations*, 36 QUINNIPIAC L. REV. 183, 189 (2018).

11. *Id.*

to pass the bar exam.¹² In other words, it is possible to show which law schools are adding the most bar passage value to their students. Three articles (two of which are discussed in the next section) have identified the law schools that add the most value to *first-time* bar passage rates.¹³ This is the first article to identify the law schools that add the most value to *ultimate* bar passage rates. As explained in Section II.B, the five law schools that added the most value to ultimate bar passage during the period of 2017–2019 are as follows:¹⁴

Rank	Top 5 Law Schools for Ultimate Bar Passage
1	CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY
2	LIBERTY UNIVERSITY
3	LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY
4	BELMONT UNIVERSITY
5	SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

I. FIRST-TIME BAR PASSAGE RATE

In 2018, Professor (now Judge) Jeffrey Usman and I published a one-year snapshot of first-time bar passage rate performance for 187 ABA-approved law schools.¹⁵ In particular, we compared 2012 input

12. *Id.*

13. See, e.g., C.J. Ryan & Derek Muller, *The Secret Sauce: Examining Law Schools that Overperform on the Bar Exam*, 75 FLA. L. REV. 65 (2023) (reporting “a few surprises that emerged in the top group of overperforming law schools, specifically: Baylor University, Belmont University, Campbell University, Liberty University, and Louisiana State University”).

14. See discussion *infra* Section II.B.

15. See Kinsler & Usman, *supra* note 10. As of May 15, 2022, there are 199 ABA-approved law schools. See *List of ABA-Approved Law Schools*, AM. BAR ASS’N, https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/aba_approved_law_schools/ (last visited Feb. 18, 2023). Twelve law schools were excluded from this study because of missing or inconsistent data. First, the two diploma–privilege law schools (Wisconsin and Marquette) were excluded because graduates of those two law schools are admitted to the Wisconsin bar without taking the bar exam so long as they meet certain requirements. *Wiesmueller v. Kosobucki*, 571 F.3d 699, 700 (7th Cir. 2009). Second, the three ABA-approved law schools in Puerto Rico (Inter American University School of Law, Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico School of Law, and University of Puerto Rico School of Law) were excluded because for a portion of the relevant time their students took the LSAT in English, but took the bar exam in Spanish, creating language-based consistency problems in comparing performance on the input measure (UGPA and LSAT) and the output measure (bar exam performance). Onur, *The LSAT—in Spanish*, KAPLAN TEST PREP (July 18, 2013),

credentials—Median LSAT Scores and Median UGPA—with 2015 first-time bar passage rates to determine which law schools overperformed in terms of preparing students to pass the bar exam and which law schools underperformed in terms of preparing students to pass the bar exam.¹⁶ Using linear regression models, that article assessed law school performance using four metrics: (1) Median LSAT and Composite Average First-Time Bar Pass Rate;¹⁷ (2) Median UGPA and Composite Average First-Time Bar Pass Rate; (3) Median LSAT and Composite Average First-Time Bar Pass Rate Differential;¹⁸ and (4) Median UGPA and Composite Average First-Time Bar Pass Rate Differential.¹⁹ Based upon this analysis, the top twenty schools in terms of overperforming predicted expectations for first-time bar passage based upon UGPA and LSAT scores of incoming students were as follows:²⁰

Rank	Top 20 Law Schools for First-Time Bar Passage (2015)
1	BELMONT UNIVERSITY
2	GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY
3	UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
4	FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
5	CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY
6	SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

<https://www.kaptest.com/blog/graduate-advisor-insider/2013/07/18/the-lsat-in-spanish/> (reporting that prior to February 2014, the LSAT was offered only in English); *Ultimate Guide to Puerto Rico Bar Exam*, CRUSHENDO (July 2022), <https://crushendo.com/puerto-rico-bar-exam-prep/> (reporting that questions on the Puerto Rico bar exam are written in Spanish). Third, four law schools, specifically Mitchell Hamline, Penn State-Penn State Law, Penn State-Dickinson Law, and Rutgers, dramatically changed structure between 2012 and 2019; thus, there are consistency problems with the data for these schools. Kinsler & Usman, *supra* note 10, at 191–93. Fourth, the ABA did not report input or output data for the following law schools for a portion of the relevant time-period: La Verne, UNT Dallas, and Thomas Jefferson. *Id.*

16. Kinsler & Usman, *supra* note 10, at 190.

17. The “Composite Average First-Time Bar Pass Rate” is a law school’s bar passage rate for all graduates taking the bar exam for the first time in a calendar year. Kinsler & Usman, *supra* note 10, at 193–94.

18. The “Composite Average First-Time Bar Pass Rate Differential” is the difference between a law school’s Composite Average First-Time Bar Pass Rate and the weighted bar pass rate for ABA graduates in the reported jurisdictions. *Id.* at 194–95.

19. *Id.* at 190.

20. *Id.*

7	UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
8	UNIVERSITY OF AKRON
9	WIDENER UNIVERSITY-COMMONWEALTH
10	LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
11	WIDENER UNIVERSITY—DELAWARE
12	MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE
13	GONZAGA UNIVERSITY
14	QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY
15	TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
16	UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI—KANSAS CITY
17	CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY
18	ELON UNIVERSITY
19	UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
20	STETSON UNIVERSITY

In the 2018 article, we promised to publish additional studies as new data became available,²¹ because a one-year snapshot is susceptible to chance occurrences. In 2021, I published a five-year study (2015–2019) of first-time bar passage rate performance for the same 187 ABA-approved law schools.²² Using linear regression models, I assessed the performance of these law schools using four metrics for each calendar year: (1) Median LSAT and Composite Average First-Time Bar Pass Rate; (2) Median UGPA and Composite Average First-Time Bar Pass Rate; (3) Median LSAT and Composite Average First-Time Bar Pass Rate Differential; and (4) Median UGPA and Composite Average First-Time Bar Pass Rate Differential.²³ An annual rank was then calculated for each law school based on its overperformance (or underperformance) of predicted expectations for first-time bar passage.²⁴ An average annual rank was then calculated based on each law school's performance over the five-year period of 2015–2019.²⁵ Based upon this analysis, the top 20 law schools in terms of over-

21. Kinsler & Usman, *supra* note 10, at 27.

22. Jeffrey S. Kinsler, *The Best Law Schools for Passing the Bar Exam*, TAXPROF BLOG, at https://taxprof.typepad.com/taxprof_blog/2021/02/kinsler-the-best-law-schools-for-passing-the-bar-exam.html (last visited May 15, 2022); for a list of the twelve law schools excluded from this study, see *supra* note 15.

23. Kinsler, *supra* note 22.

24. *Id.*

25. *Id.*

performing predicted expectations for first-time bar passage based upon UGPA and LSAT scores of incoming students are as follows:²⁶

Rank	Top 20 Law Schools for First-Time Bar Passage (2015–2019)
1	BELMONT UNIVERSITY
2	FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
3	LIBERTY UNIVERSITY
4	CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY
5	TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
6	DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY
7	LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
8	GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY
9	TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
10	UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
11	REGENT UNIVERSITY
12	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
13	SETON HALL UNIVERSITY
14	CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY
15	UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
16	SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
17	UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
18	UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI—KANSAS CITY
19	WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY
20	NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

These prior studies focused on first-time bar passage rates. First-time bar passage rates are probably a more accurate measure of the quality of legal education than ultimate bar passage rates, considering that first-time rates measure performance soon after graduation.²⁷ Prospective law students, however, may be more interested in ultimate

26. *Id.*

27. See generally Ryan & Muller, *supra* note 13, at 103–04 (observing that “overperforming law schools overwhelmingly still measure bar success not by an ultimate bar passage rate within two years of graduation, but by ensuring that every student who attempts the bar exam passes on their first attempt”).

bar passage rates, as their primary goal is to pass the bar exam and practice law. Moreover, the ABA considers a law school's ultimate bar passage rate (and not first-time bar passage rate) for accreditation purposes.²⁸

This Article endeavors to answer three questions: First, are Median LSAT and Median UGPA predictive of ultimate bar passage rates? Second, if it is possible to predict ultimate bar passage rates, which law schools are overperforming (or underperforming) predicted expectations? Third, are the law schools that overperform expectations for first-time bar passage the same as those that overperform for ultimate bar passage?

II. ULTIMATE BAR PASSAGE RATE

In 2016, the ABA began collecting and reporting “ultimate bar passage rates.”²⁹ Before that time, the ABA focused on first-time bar passage rates.³⁰ Ultimate bar passage rates are calculated based on the number of graduates each law school has in a calendar year who took a bar examination within two years of graduation.³¹ To satisfy ABA standards, “[a]t least 75 percent of a law school’s graduates in a calendar year who sat for a bar examination must have passed a bar examination administered within two years of their date of graduation.”³² For the class of 2019, ten law schools (Pontifical Catholic, Western Michigan, Inter American, Golden Gate, District of Columbia, Ave Maria,

28. AM. BAR ASS’N, SECTION OF LEGAL EDUC. & ADMISSIONS TO THE BAR, ABA STANDARDS AND RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR APPROVAL OF LAW SCHOOLS 2022-2023, at 17 (2022) [hereinafter ABA STANDARDS], https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/legal_education_and_admission_s_to_the_bar/standards/2022-2023/2022-2023-standards-and-rules-of-procedure.pdf.

29. Stephanie Francis Ward, *New Bar Pass Questionnaire Will Yield Better Information But Create More Work for Law Schools*, ABA J. (Dec. 21, 2017), https://www.abajournal.com/news/article/new_bar_passage_questionnaire_will_give_better_information_along_with_more (last visited Feb. 18, 2023).

30. *Id.*

31. Am. Bar Ass’n, Section of Legal Educ. & Admissions to the Bar, *2023 Bar Passage Questionnaire Instructions*, AM. BAR ASS’N, https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/questionnaire/ (last visited Feb. 18, 2023).

32. ABA STANDARDS, *supra* note 28, at 27.

Vermont, Puerto Rico, Appalachian, and Western New England) failed to satisfy the 75% standard.³³

Although ultimate bar passage rates are based on only four bar exam administrations, a law school's pass rate is unlikely to increase much after two years.³⁴ Of those who will eventually pass a bar exam, Kyle McEntee and David Frakt of Law School Transparency have observed that 99.9% will have done so by their fourth attempt.³⁵

A. Ultimate Bar Pass Rates: Overall Performance

Before identifying the law schools that are overperforming or underperforming expectations on ultimate bar passage rates, it is important to consider the overall performance of law schools during the relevant time period. These “unweighted” rankings do not consider the law schools' entering credentials (i.e., Median LSAT and Median UGPA); the law schools on the following lists had the best performance on the bar exam irrespective of entering credentials.³⁶

Class of 2017. The top 20 law schools for ultimate bar passage rates for the class of 2017 are as follows:³⁷

Rank	Law School	Ultimate Bar Pass Rate
1	YALE UNIVERSITY	100.00%
2	UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA	99.66%
3	UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA	99.59%
4	DUKE UNIVERSITY	99.55%
5	UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO	99.52%
6	STANFORD UNIVERSITY	99.45%
7	UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON	99.39%

33. *Statistics*, *supra* note 6 (scroll down and select “2019 Ultimate Bar Pass Data”).

34. Kyle McEntee, *The ABA's New Bar Pass Rate Standards*, ABOVE L. (Feb. 16, 2016), <https://abovethelaw.com/2016/02/the-abas-new-bar-pass-rate-standards/>.

35. Letter from Kyle McEntee, Exec. Dir., L. Sch. Transparency, and David Frakt, Chair, L. Sch. Transparency Nat'l Advisory Council, to Council of the ABA Section on Legal Educ. and Admissions to the Bar (2016) (on file with author).

36. *Statistics*, *supra* note 6 (scroll down and select “2017 Ultimate Bar Pass Data”).

37. *Id.*

8	UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA	98.90%
9	HARVARD UNIVERSITY	98.83%
10	NEW YORK UNIVERSITY	98.32%
11	SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY	97.96%
12	CORNELL UNIVERSITY	97.50%
13	UNIVERSITY OF TULSA	97.47%
14	UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA	97.37%
15	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA— BERKELEY	97.32%
16	BAYLOR UNIVERSITY	97.06%
17	UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS	97.06%
18	BOSTON COLLEGE	97.00%
19	COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY	96.93%
20	UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO	96.93%

Not surprisingly, most of the law schools on this list are top 50 law schools in the *US News*' rankings;³⁸ these schools generally have very high LSAT scores and UGPAs. However, some lower ranking law schools substantially outperformed expectations, specifically Baylor (Rank: 58), Nebraska (Rank: 78), St. Louis (Rank: 98), Tulsa (Rank: 118), and Oklahoma (Rank: 88).³⁹

Class of 2018. The top 20 law schools for ultimate bar passage rates for the class of 2018 are as follows:⁴⁰

Rank	Law School	Ultimate Bar Pass Rate
1	BELMONT UNIVERSITY	100.00%
2	UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO	100.00%
3	UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON	100.00%
4	BOSTON UNIVERSITY	99.55%
5	CORNELL UNIVERSITY	99.49%
6	UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA	99.16%

38. See *2023 Best Law Schools*, U.S. NEWS & WORLD REP., <https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-law-schools/law-rankings> (last visited Jan. 24, 2023).

39. *Id.*

40. *Statistics, supra* note 6 (scroll down and select "2018 Ultimate Bar Pass Data").

7	YALE UNIVERSITY	99.04%
8	UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA	98.99%
9	STANFORD UNIVERSITY	98.91%
10	NEW YORK UNIVERSITY	98.89%
11	VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY	98.86%
12	FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY	98.47%
13	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA— BERKELEY	98.34%
14	DUKE UNIVERSITY	98.14%
15	HARVARD UNIVERSITY	97.86%
16	WILLIAM AND MARY LAW SCHOOL	97.80%
17	LIBERTY UNIVERSITY	97.62%
18	UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH	97.56%
19	SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY	97.44%
20	UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN	97.27%

Like 2017, most of the law schools on this list are top 50 law schools in the *US News*' rankings,⁴¹ but there are some surprising over-achievers: Belmont (Rank: 133), Florida International (Rank: 98), Liberty (Unranked), Pittsburgh (Rank: 78), and St. Louis (Rank: 98).⁴²

Class of 2019. The top 20 law schools for ultimate bar passage rates for the class of 2019 are as follows:⁴³

Rank	Law School	Ultimate Bar Pass Rate
1	BELMONT UNIVERSITY	100.00%
2	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA— BERKELEY	99.69%
3	DUKE UNIVERSITY	99.54%
4	UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO	99.49%
5	GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY	99.36%

41. See *2023 Best Law Schools*, *supra* note 38.

42. *Id.*

43. *Statistics*, *supra* note 6 (scroll down and select "2019 Ultimate Bar Pass Data").

6	UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA	99.30%
7	BAYLOR UNIVERSITY	99.29%
8	HARVARD UNIVERSITY	99.29%
9	UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA	99.21%
10	YALE UNIVERSITY	99.04%
11	STANFORD UNIVERSITY	98.88%
12	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA	98.69%
13	NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY	98.69%
14	UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN	98.34%
15	CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY	98.13%
16	NEW YORK UNIVERSITY	98.11%
17	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA—LOS ANGELES	98.08%
18	LIBERTY UNIVERSITY	98.04%
19	UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA	97.97%
20	CORNELL UNIVERSITY	97.94%

Again, most of the law schools on this list are top 50 law schools in the *US News*' rankings, but there are some surprising over-achievers: Belmont (Rank: 133), Baylor (Rank: 58), Campbell (Unranked), and Liberty (Unranked).⁴⁴ Belmont was the only law school to achieve a 100% ultimate bar pass rate twice during the period of 2017 to 2019.

B. Ultimate Bar Pass Rates: Overperforming and Underperforming Expectations

This Article is based on a three-year study (2017–2019) of the ultimate bar passage rate performance for 186 ABA-approved law schools.⁴⁵ The study confirms earlier research that found that students

44. See *2023 Best Law Schools*, *supra* note 38.

45. As of May 15, 2022, there are 199 ABA-approved law schools. Thirteen law schools were excluded from this study because of missing or inconsistent data. First, the two diploma-privilege law schools (Wisconsin and Marquette) were excluded because graduates of those two law schools are admitted to the Wisconsin bar without taking the bar exam so long as they meet certain requirements. Second, the three ABA-approved law schools in Puerto Rico (Inter American University School of Law, Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico School of Law, and University of Puerto Rico School of Law) were excluded because for a portion of the relevant time their students took the LSAT in English, but took the bar exam in Spanish, creating

with higher UGPAs and LSAT scores are more likely to pass the bar exam than students with lower UGPAs and LSAT scores.⁴⁶ As a consequence, a predicted ultimate bar passage rate may be calculated for each law school based upon its UGPA and LSAT scores. Once a predicted ultimate bar passage rate is calculated, it is possible to determine which law schools are overperforming or underperforming in terms of preparing their students to pass the bar exam. In other words, it is possible to show which law schools are adding the most ultimate bar passage value to their students.

Using linear regression models, I assessed the performance of 186 law schools using two metrics for each calendar year: (1) Median LSAT and Ultimate Bar Pass Rate; and (2) Median UGPA and Ultimate Bar Pass Rate. I then calculated an annual rank for each law school based on its overperformance (or underperformance) of predicted expectations for bar passage.⁴⁷ An average annual rank was then calculated based on each law school's performance over the three-year period of 2017–2019.⁴⁸

Top 20 Law Schools. Based on this analysis, the top 20 law schools in terms of overperforming predicted expectations for ultimate bar passage based on UGPA and LSAT scores of incoming students are as follows:

Rank	Top 20 Law Schools for Ultimate Bar Passage (2017–2019)
1	CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY
2	LIBERTY UNIVERSITY
3	LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY
4	BELMONT UNIVERSITY
5	SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

language-based consistency problems in comparing performance on the input measure (UGPA and LSAT) and the output measure (bar exam performance). Third, four law schools, specifically Mitchell Hamline, Penn State-Penn State Law, Penn State-Dickinson Law, and Rutgers, dramatically changed structure between 2012 and 2019; thus, there are consistency problems with the data for these schools. Fourth, the ABA did not report input or output data for the following law schools for a portion of the relevant time period: Florida Coastal, La Verne, UNT Dallas, and Thomas Jefferson.

46. *See, e.g.*, Kinsler & Usman, *supra* note 10, at 189.

47. Kinsler, *supra* note 22 (using the same analysis for first-time bar passage rates).

48. *Id.*

6	GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY
7	SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
8	SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
9	SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE OF LAW
10	UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
11	FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
12	SETON HALL UNIVERSITY
13	NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
14	TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
15	CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
16	WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY
17	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
18	DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY
19	UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
20	CARDOZO SCHOOL OF LAW

This research substantiated two hypotheses: First, a law school's ultimate bar passage rate is predictable based on its Median LSAT and Median UGPA. Second, it is possible to determine which law schools are overperforming (or underperforming) predicted expectations for ultimate bar passage based upon UGPA and LSAT scores of incoming students.

One final hypothesis: Are the law schools that overperform expectations for ultimate bar passage the same as those that overperform expectations for first-time bar passage? For the most part, the answer is yes. Twelve of the top 20 law schools for first-time bar passage during the period of 2015–2019 are also in the top 20 for ultimate bar passage during the period of 2017–2019, as shown on the following chart:⁴⁹

Law School	Ultimate Bar Passage Rank (2017–2019)	First-Time Bar Passage Rank (2015–2019)
CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY	1	4
LIBERTY UNIVERSITY	2	3

49. Kinsler, *supra* note 22.

BELMONT UNIVERSITY	4	1
GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY	6	8
ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY	7	16
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA	10	15
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY	11	2
SETON HALL UNIVERSITY	12	13
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY	13	20
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY	14	5
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA	17	12
DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY	18	6

Notably, three law schools (Campbell, Liberty, and Belmont) are in the top 5 for both first-time and ultimate bar passage rate.

Of the eight law schools in the top 20 for ultimate bar passage that are not in the top 20 for first-time bar passage, five were ranked in the top 50 for first-time bar passage rate, as shown on the following chart:⁵⁰

Law School	Ultimate Bar Passage Rank (2017–2019)	First-Time Bar Passage Rank (2015–2019)
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50. Kinsler, *supra* note 22.

LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY	3	43
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY	8	27
SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE OF LAW	9	23
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK	15	45
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS	19	26

The remaining three law schools performed far better on ultimate bar passage than on first-time bar passage. Samford is ranked 5th for ultimate bar passage but 51st for first-time bar passage. Willamette is ranked 16th for ultimate bar passage but 65th for first-time bar passage. Cardozo showed the most improvement; it was ranked 20th for ultimate bar passage but 141st for first-time bar passage.

Law Schools Ranked 21–186. The remaining law schools (i.e., those ranked 21–186) in terms of overperforming (or underperforming) predicted expectations for ultimate bar passage based upon UGPA and LSAT scores of incoming students are as follows:

Rank	Ultimate Bar Passage (2017–2019)
21	TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
22	UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
23	LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
24	WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY
25	REGENT UNIVERSITY
26	UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS DARTMOUTH
27	PACE UNIVERSITY
28	UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
29	ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY
30	UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO
31	UNIVERSITY OF TULSA
32	FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

33	UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
34	UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
35	UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
36	UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
37	UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
38	OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY
39	CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA
40	UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
41	UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
42	UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
43	UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
44	LOYOLA UNIVERSITY, NEW ORLEANS
45	UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
46	UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
47	BOSTON COLLEGE
48	WASHBURN UNIVERSITY
49	WIDENER UNIVERSITY—DELAWARE
50	CAPITAL UNIVERSITY
51	BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL
52	MERCER UNIVERSITY
53	UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
54	UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
55	BAYLOR UNIVERSITY
56	ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY
57	FORDHAM UNIVERSITY
58	LOYOLA UNIVERSITY—CHICAGO
59	ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY (FLORIDA)
60	OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY
61	GONZAGA UNIVERSITY
62	NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
63	SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
64	SEATTLE UNIVERSITY
65	DRAKE UNIVERSITY
66	WIDENER-COMMONWEALTH
67	UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS (MINNESOTA)
68	QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY

69	BOSTON UNIVERSITY
70	SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL
71	LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY—LOS ANGELES
72	CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY
73	TOURO COLLEGE
74	TEMPLE UNIVERSITY
75	GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
76	WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
77	UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
78	UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
79	OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
80	UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
81	NEW ENGLAND LAW BOSTON
82	UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
83	CHICAGO-KENT COLLEGE OF LAW—ILLINOIS TECH
84	STETSON UNIVERSITY
85	NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
86	CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY
87	UNIVERSITY OF DENVER
88	LEWIS AND CLARK COLLEGE
89	SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY
90	UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, LITTLE ROCK
91	CORNELL UNIVERSITY
92	UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
93	UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
94	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA—IRVINE
95	NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY
96	CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
97	UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
98	WILLIAM AND MARY LAW SCHOOL
99	SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY
100	VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
101	UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY
102	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA—DAVIS
103	CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY
104	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA—BERKELEY

105	UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON
106	UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
107	JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL
108	DUKE UNIVERSITY
109	UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
110	HOWARD UNIVERSITY
111	UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS—FAYETTEVILLE
112	UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO
113	UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
114	UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO
115	UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA—LAS VEGAS
116	VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
117	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY— CARBONDALE
118	DREXEL UNIVERSITY
119	UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI
120	UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
121	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
122	WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY
123	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
124	UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
125	INDIANA UNIVERSITY—INDIANAPOLIS
126	FAULKNER UNIVERSITY
127	ELON UNIVERSITY
128	UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
129	WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
130	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA
131	ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY
132	UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE
133	NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL
134	UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
135	NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
136	UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
137	UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA
138	ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
139	GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

140	ALBANY LAW SCHOOL OF UNION UNIVERSITY
141	WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF LAW
142	UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
143	BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
144	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA—LOS ANGELES
145	UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
146	UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
147	PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY
148	AVE MARIA SCHOOL OF LAW
149	MCGEORGE SCHOOL OF LAW
150	UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
151	WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
152	APPALACHIAN SCHOOL OF LAW
153	UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI
154	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA—HASTINGS
155	GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
156	TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
157	HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY
158	NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
159	STANFORD UNIVERSITY
160	FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY
161	CHARLESTON SCHOOL OF LAW
162	INDIANA UNIVERSITY—BLOOMINGTON
163	MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
164	AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
165	TULANE UNIVERSITY
166	DEPAUL UNIVERSITY
167	YALE UNIVERSITY
168	COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
169	UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO—SUNY
170	NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
171	HARVARD UNIVERSITY
172	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
173	CALIFORNIA WESTERN SCHOOL OF LAW
174	UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
175	BARRY UNIVERSITY
176	UNIVERSITY OF AKRON
177	SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY

178	ATLANTA'S JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL
179	VERMONT LAW SCHOOL
180	UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO
181	WESTERN NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY
182	MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE
183	GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY
184	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
185	EMORY UNIVERSITY
186	WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY (THOMAS COOLEY)

Not surprisingly, many of the worst performers for ultimate bar passage rate were also in the bottom ten for first-time passage rate, including San Francisco, District of Columbia, Golden Gate, and Western Michigan.⁵¹

III. CONCLUSION

Using linear regression models, this Article substantiates three hypotheses: First, a law school's Median LSAT and Median UGPA is predictive of that school's ultimate bar passage rate. Second, it is possible to determine which law schools are overperforming (or underperforming) predicted expectations for ultimate bar passage based on UGPA and LSAT scores of incoming students; the top five overperformers are Campbell, Liberty, Lincoln Memorial, Belmont, and Samford. Third, some law schools consistently overperform expectations for both first-time bar passage *and* ultimate bar passage; the top three are Belmont, Campbell, and Liberty. It is fair to say that these three law schools are adding the most bar passage value to their students.

51. See Kinsler, *supra* note 22.