



Lee Burgess: Welcome to the Bar Exam Toolbox podcast. Today we are going to talk about 10 things to think about if you are taking the July 2022 exam. Your Bar Exam Toolbox hosts are Alison Monahan and Lee Burgess, that's me. We're here to demystify the bar exam experience, so you can study effectively, stay sane, and hopefully pass and move on with your life. We're the co-creators of the [Law School Toolbox](#), the [Bar Exam Toolbox](#), and the career-related website [CareerDicta](#). Alison also runs [The Girl's Guide to Law School](#). If you enjoy the show, please leave a review on your favorite listening app, and check out our sister podcast, the [Law School Toolbox podcast](#). If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to us. You can reach us via the [contact form](#) on [BarExamToolbox.com](#), and we'd love to hear from you. And with that, let's get started.

Alison Monahan: Welcome back. Today, we're going to talk about what you should be thinking about if you're studying for the July 2022 bar exam. Some of this information might be a little bit of a review for those of you who are very diligent listeners of the podcast, but it is always a good idea to get organized and make sure your bar prep is on track. So, let's get started. Well, first and foremost – and this sounds like it should be obvious – but we have seen issues.

Lee Burgess: Yeah.

Alison Monahan: I think the first thing people need to do is decide where they're going to take the test and actually sign up for the exam. And as part of that, you need to make sure your application to the bar is actually completed, and this means any character and fitness requirements and anything else they ask you for, you need to make sure that you do.

Lee Burgess: Yes, and do not do it while you're trying to study. You need to do it now. Please.

Alison Monahan: Right. I think this is particularly important for anyone who's coming from anything other than just getting ready to graduate type of situation, if you are a foreign-trained attorney, if you're an attorney applicant, all of these things – you just really need to make sure your ducks are in a row here, because some of these applications are kind of weird and they ask for some strange stuff, and it's a lot of putting together information, every single place you've ever lived, all this kind of crazy stuff that you think you'll just do this in 20 minutes, but I feel like it's almost like doing your taxes.

Lee Burgess: Oh, I think it's worse than your taxes.

Alison Monahan: Oh, I don't know about that.



Lee Burgess: Okay, maybe back in the day...

Alison Monahan: Maybe because I'm doing my taxes right now and I'm very miserable about it.

Lee Burgess: I know. Maybe back in the day when my taxes were just like 1W2.

Alison Monahan: Exactly, yeah. And that was the worst. But now that you're a grownup and have a lot of complicated things, and run a business, etcetera – probably a close call.

Lee Burgess: Exactly.

Alison Monahan: It can be. I think particularly, some people may have issues that they're going to have to deal with. I had friends who had things they had to disclose on their law school applications and they also had to disclose on their bar applications, and all of this stuff can get a little tricky.

Lee Burgess: Yep, exactly. And you don't want to make mistakes that could have your application flagged.

Alison Monahan: No.

Lee Burgess: No. They don't like finding out that you didn't disclose something, or that you didn't disclose the truth. So, just slow down and make sure it's all right.

Alison Monahan: Yeah, exactly. You're dealing with lawyers here – make sure that you've dotted your Is, you've crossed the Ts, and if you have any questions, you need to find someone who actually knows this information to help you, whether that's putting in a call to the actual bar and asking the question, or even if it comes down to it, finding an attorney who helps people deal with stuff like this to make sure that you're not going to have problems.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. I think I really don't know of anyone – and I'm trying to think through all the people I know that have had some issues with their character and fitness. Everyone got licensed. You just sometimes have to jump through some hoops, but you don't want to delay your admission or create unnecessary drama. You just really want to be forthright about it. Let's say you have an arrest on your application, or I knew of someone who had gotten into some trouble in undergrad, but it technically wasn't an arrest because it was all campus security, and they weren't sure what to disclose and what not to disclose. And so then I'm like, "You've got to talk to a lawyer. Make sure you know what you're... "



- Alison Monahan: Right. Talk to someone who knows what the answer to your question is.
- Lee Burgess: Exactly, worth it. That one phone call will solve all of these problems. And make sure that you're doing it the correct way. So, doing it early is just going to either help you glide straight through and know that that box is checked, or if there are some bumps coming down the road, they're not going to stop you from getting licensed or create drama during bar prep, which is not great either.
- Alison Monahan: Yeah, someone I knew had to disclose an underage DUI situation. And again, it was not a huge big deal, but they did, as I recall, end up having to go to alcohol counseling or something, just to check that box. And so, they needed time to do that.
- Lee Burgess: Yep. So it's just part of being a grownup. You have to do all the paperwork.
- Alison Monahan: Yeah, and do it in a timely manner.
- Lee Burgess: Yeah. Alright, that was number one. I do like a good top 10 list, so now we'll move on to number two. This is a big one because we talk about this all the time – that if you need accommodations, apply now. And I literally mean stop this podcast and call the bar. I'm not even kidding. This is such a big deal when I talk to people on the phone who need accommodations. If you think that you need accommodations and you haven't applied, you need to do that as soon as humanly possible. And if you can't get them in one state and you're especially taking the UBE, you could look at another state. But you also need to call that state and see if their accommodation deadline has passed, and whether or not you could get accommodations in that state. All of this takes time and is incredibly important to work on it right now.
- Alison Monahan: And this is another one where you may end up having to hire someone to prepare whatever documents you need to apply for this. They need to be in a certain format, and you need to find that person. It's a hassle, but you've got to deal with it if you're going to get them. It's always a really unfortunate situation where someone misses the deadline for accommodation, or they apply and they're just still not sure, like a week before the exam, what their exam is going to look like. All of this stuff takes forever. And the sooner you do it, the better.
- Lee Burgess: Yeah. So, literally just pause the podcast, do it right now. Unless you're maybe driving – you can get to where you need to go. But really, it's worth it.
- Alison Monahan: Yeah. But as soon as you stop, make that phone call, or at least look up the number and give yourself a "to do" in the next few days to do it.



Lee Burgess: Yeah.

Alison Monahan: Because this stuff, it's amazing how long it always takes.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. Alright, number three. Another thing people often forget about is having to take the MPRE.

Alison Monahan: Oh, I was guilty of this one, almost.

Lee Burgess: So if you haven't taken it yet, make sure you know when you're going to take it. It's not offered that many times a year, and you cannot get your license if you don't take it.

Alison Monahan: Yeah. I think for me, I waited until the last possible date I could take it in school, which I hadn't really thought about it. I hadn't taken Professional Responsibility yet and I thought, "Well, I'll take Professional Responsibility and then I'll take the MPRE, no problem." And then I realized I started hearing about people in my school who had failed and I was like, "Oh my gosh, what if I fail this test and then I have to take it after I take the bar? I really should have done this sooner."

Lee Burgess: Yeah.

Alison Monahan: So I think ideally, you want to give yourself at least two shots to take it while you're still in school. And maybe – word to the wise – perhaps plan when you're taking Professional Responsibility as a class around when you might need to take the MPRE.

Lee Burgess: Yep. And I think what a lot of people don't realize is that if you don't do it before the bar, the next offering is usually in August, which is right after the bar.

Alison Monahan: And I was supposed to be on my bar trip then, and I was just like, "Oh my gosh, what if I have to do this later? This is not going to be great."

Lee Burgess: Yeah, so just get it over with. You want to get it done, check the box, get the score that you need to. Remember that it's good for a number of years, so just get it done.

Alison Monahan: Yeah, definitely. It's just something you need to take seriously enough to pass it, because people do fail it, even in top schools. Nobody's going to go in cold. We joke that both of us failed our driving test at some point – it's kind of along those lines. A little harder, but you've just got to sit down and learn it.



Lee Burgess: Yeah, I know. There are just some rules that you have to learn.

Alison Monahan: It's like, how fast am I supposed to go at a railroad crossing? I still don't remember – is it 25, is it 35, is it 45? There's an answer.

Lee Burgess: There is an answer, and it's in the book, the pamphlet.

Alison Monahan: It's in the book, and they expect you to know that actually it is 25 or whatever.

Lee Burgess: Whatever. Okay, so got to do the MPRE. Next up, number four – and this also should be simple and not needed to be stated, but it really does – is, make sure that you're going to graduate.

Alison Monahan: Yep, no joke. Some people do end up not graduating for various reasons.

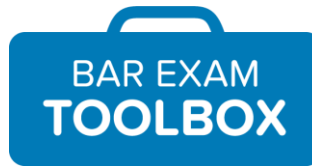
Lee Burgess: Various reasons – they don't get their writing requirement done, or they messed up something, or they miscounted a unit, or they didn't get the credits correctly allocated for their externship. All sorts of stuff happens, so if you've had kind of a complicated law school time where maybe you withdrew from some classes or had something come up – just go to the registrar, double check, make sure that you're ready to graduate, because there could still be a little time to remedy things during the semester, but you also can't get licensed if you don't graduate.

Alison Monahan: Right, and probably you can't sit for the bar, I don't know, but I would imagine you cannot.

Lee Burgess: Yeah, I don't know, but I think the bar would do that.

Alison Monahan: Something to look into if you want to graduate. Yeah, schools have pro bono requirements you need to make sure you're meeting, we mentioned the writing requirement – that one always trips up a few people, and it's not that easy to produce a 30 to 40-page paper at the last minute.

Lee Burgess: Well, no, and you have to get a professor to agree to read it. It's not just even producing it; you often have to make sure that you have your professor signed off and you have to do these intermittent steps. So, just make sure that you've checked all of those boxes. I think COVID is going to put people in a lot of weird situations, because I'm sure that people with online Zoom class, there's confusion about dropping classes or adding classes, or emergencies coming up and people having to pull out of classes for health reasons or other family



emergencies. I bet the slew of stuff that registrars dealt with was unheard of during the pandemic.

Alison Monahan: I'm sure.

Lee Burgess: Yeah, but that's why you probably should double-check.

Alison Monahan: Just check that box. Go and make sure. I, for example, almost did not graduate from architecture school because, a) I was about to fail the ballet class that I'd signed up for for fun, because I was busy and hadn't been able to go, and they were literally going to fail me if I missed one more class, and I needed the credit. And also, I had three people that were my advisors on my thesis project, and one of them hated the project. And so, I ended up having to basically be like, "If you do not sign this, I am not graduating." That was kind of the conversation. So, you just never know. You want to make sure everything's done to the extent possible in advance, and if not in advance, you need to have a plan.

Lee Burgess: Yep. Alright, number five – sign up for or plan for your bar prep. This seems so easy to do, because everybody's like, "But the bar review companies have been in my hallway at my school for years and years."

Alison Monahan: Just pick one.

Lee Burgess: Just pick one. We have a lot of content about this – about the importance of actually evaluating your options – whether they be the more typical commercial courses or more personalized options. But you really need to take a beat and decide what will work best for you, with your budget, with where you're going to study, how you're going to study, with your own unique strengths and challenges. You really just need to sit down and actually think and evaluate, and not just sign on the dotted line of the loudest company.

Alison Monahan: Right. Because I think all of the companies provide similar information, and then it's really a question of, "Okay, is this being provided in a format that's going to be useful to me? Does it look like their schedules are going to be realistic for me, given what I have going on in my life?" Different things work better for different people, and I think there's a lot of pressure, obviously, just to do this thing that everybody else does. But if you know that you're not learning in the way that everyone else does, or you know that your schedule is not like everyone else's, then maybe you need to think about something a little more non-traditional.



- Lee Burgess: Yeah, that's true. The other thing that I've heard from folks talking to us on the phone recently is that oftentimes, a firm may give you a bar stipend and say, "Oh well, we'll pay for BARBRI." But if you go back to the firm and say, "But what if I want to do something different? Could I just get that allocation and apply it to a different program?" And sometimes the firms might say "Yes". So, don't feel like you're not empowered to go ask for what you want. All the firms want you to do is pass so they can bill you out at a higher rate.
- Alison Monahan: Frankly, most of them, a lot of them, at least that I've heard of or experienced, they just have a stipend that they give you. It's like, you get \$3,000 or \$4,000 or \$5,000, or whatever they're giving you that week. And as I recall, basically, I just showed them at some point that I'd spent that money on something.
- Lee Burgess: Yeah, I think it's worth asking questions. If it sounds like it's not flexible and the stipend is not flexible and you want something different, they're not going to take it away from you because you asked the recruiter if you could use the money in a different way.
- Alison Monahan: Right, exactly. I mean, they may say "No", but...
- Lee Burgess: Right, but you can definitely ask. Something else that people are talking to us about at this point in the semester, which is number six on my list, is thinking about studying early. This is especially, I think, for 3Ls who are maybe starting to get a little nervous, feeling some butterflies in their belly about sitting for the exam. And I think this is especially true if you didn't take some of the big bar courses while you were in law school, like the big seven that are tested on the MBEs and the essay – things like Civ Pro, Con Law, Crim Pro, Crim Law, Real Property, Torts, Evidence. If you didn't take Evidence, maybe you don't want to learn all of Evidence during bar prep. Maybe you want to learn some of that early.
- Alison Monahan: Exactly. I think Evidence is definitely one that people may not have taken for whatever reason, particularly if they're not planning on doing litigation, and maybe don't necessarily realize this on the MBE, but it is. And it is not a topic that is particularly easy to learn, I think in just a week or so, which is maybe what you get in a commercial... Probably less than that, half a week.
- Lee Burgess: Probably less – I think like half a week.
- Alison Monahan: Yeah, like three days. I don't think you're learning Evidence to the extent you need to know it in three days, let's put it that way.



Lee Burgess: No, no. I should also note that I left Contracts out of our list.

Alison Monahan: I noticed that, but I hated Contracts so I was just like, "Oh well, we're not going to think about that."

Lee Burgess: You were just like, "I'll just roll by it." Everybody has to take that one. It's like Crim Pro and Evidence which are usually the ones that we hear that people get that on.

Alison Monahan: Surprisingly not every school requires Con Law.

Lee Burgess: Really? I thought it was required by the ABA, no?

Alison Monahan: No. I don't know, I think even Harvard doesn't necessarily require it. I could be wrong on that, but...

Lee Burgess: Oh, my goodness.

Alison Monahan: Yeah, it's definitely... Your school may have a weird something going on, so you may not take it. Or you may have taken a Con Law class that doesn't cover the type of Con Law that's actually on the bar, which is a little bit more, I think, individual rights focused. So, I think this is a place to think about, a) "Did I take this class at all?", and b) "If I took it, did it cover the type of material that's actually on the bar?", and then c) "Did I do okay in this class and do I remember anything from it?" So if you bombed Property and you never wanted to think about any of that again – well, guess what? You need to.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. So, if you're worried, you can definitely start reviewing the law early. You can get outlines from companies such as [SmartBarPrep](#) at any time and start studying off of those. Those are some of our favorite substantive outlines. I think a lot of people also don't realize that you can sign up for MBE programs such as [AdaptiBar](#) usually as early as March 1, after the February exam, and get access to them the whole season – so, from March through July. And that's a great way to start practicing the law that you're studying and apply it. So, if you are trying to teach yourself Evidence, I believe the best way to learn Evidence is by doing fact pattern applications of the law. The law doesn't really mean that much if you don't understand how it's applied to facts. And so, you could be practicing those MBE questions, collecting your thousands of MBE questions you need to do before the bar a little bit early, and getting a grasp on some of this material.



Alison Monahan: Yeah, it's not like a magic switch is going to flip on May 1 and suddenly it counts more. You could start doing it in March, it would be fine.

Lee Burgess: Exactly, exactly. Alison, what about people who are worried about the writing portion – essays and performance test. What do you think they can do early for that?

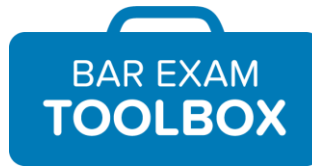
Lee Burgess: Well, I think the performance test particularly is a great option to start with, because, a) if you haven't seen it, then it's something that you probably want to take a look at. The performance test can be your favorite area of the test, because it doesn't require you to memorize anything. But that being said, it is something that you need to understand and you definitely want to have a process for. So, if you haven't done a class in law school that introduces you to this, you can use something like our [WOW program](#), where we do walk through individual performance tests. If you did one of these a week, say on the weekend, you would be well on your way to being ready for that section of the exam. And then you wouldn't have to study as many performance tests when you're trying to memorize a bunch of law, or learn a bunch of law in classes you never took.

Lee Burgess: Yeah. I think the other way to think about the performance test is really how much time it takes to do that practice. Each one of these performance tests is 90 minutes. So, you can use a program like ours or do them on your own, but the reality is, we're talking about allocating a couple of hours on the weekends. It's just not that much, but over six weeks, a few hours on the weekend starts to really add up.

Alison Monahan: Oh yeah. If you did six performance tests before you even started bar prep, you'd be pretty golden.

Lee Burgess: Yeah, you really would. That's a huge benefit to your study, and those are just such easy points. They're such easy points. It just breaks my heart when somebody doesn't pass the performance test portion because they didn't have to know any law to pass it, and I'm just like, "This is your moment."

Alison Monahan: Right. I think too, sometimes people know that they have writing issues, or they know that they have timing issues, for whatever reason. And I think this is a place that you can start to get help early too. So if your school has resources you can use before you graduate, or if you want to even start working with a tutor or something, this is something you could do in your last semester, and hopefully set yourself up to be pretty well prepared on that part of the test before you even start official bar prep.



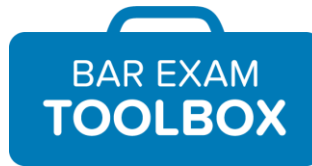
- Lee Burgess: Yeah.
- Alison Monahan: And what a relief.
- Lee Burgess: What a relief. It's an empowering way to go into that period.
- Alison Monahan: I mean, if you're taking the UBE, that's half of one day.
- Lee Burgess: Yeah, it's great, I know. Alright, so I'm a big fan of studying early. I think it's totally worth it to just put in a little bit of time. I don't think you're really risking burnout by just doing a little bit of work. I think you're just going to lighten your load, which is great.
- Alison Monahan: Right, and I think we saw this when they ended up postponing the bar from July to October and people had all the extra time. The pass rates were much higher, and I think a large part of it was because people were not trying to cram in. I mean, there were lots of reasons for it probably, but I think one of them, those people were not trying to cram all the stuff into two months. And particularly, if you're somebody who struggled in law school, or you're a foreign attorney or something like that, you're going to need more time, or you get accommodations and you need more time to study. There's no harm in taking more time if that's what you need to pass. And usually, your last semester is frankly not that intense anyway.
- Lee Burgess: Yep, exactly. Alright, number seven is always one of our favorites – get your life in order.
- Alison Monahan: Totally. So many people we talk to are like, "Well, this happened, and this happened, and this happened, and this happened, and this happened." It's like, "Okay, that doesn't sound like you really were setting yourself up for a solid performance, does it?"
- Lee Burgess: No, and life is still going to continue to happen. We're going to talk a little bit more about that. But today, it sounds like my washing machine broke, which is kind of a bummer, but that's an unexpected thing. I couldn't really have planned ahead about that. But taking the cat to the vet, or getting my car smogged...
- Alison Monahan: Having a wedding...
- Lee Burgess: Or having your own wedding.



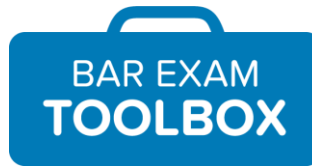
- Alison Monahan: Moving.
- Lee Burgess: Moving. We have people who have been like, "Oh, I got married during bar prep." And you're like, "What?"
- Alison Monahan: "And I also moved across the country."
- Lee Burgess: Right. I think you really want to, one, try and protect that time. But if there are life things that are going to come up, such as a family celebration or a family wedding, or your best friend's getting married and you don't want to miss the wedding – again, I don't think you have to miss the wedding, but you do need to then maybe move that time that you're not going to study to another place. So then you should go back to point number six, which is study early to release some of the pressure, so you can do some of these things during bar prep. If you have to move during bar prep, then you'd better study early to give yourself the cushion for that. You've just got to be realistic. But yes, one afternoon off isn't going to cause you to fail the bar, but a week off – well, that might be bad.
- Alison Monahan: Right. Or if you're just being unrealistic about it. I had someone tell me recently that, "Oh well, I'm going to go travel in Europe for a few weeks, but I'll still be studying." It's like, "Really? Do you think that's actually going to happen?"
- Lee Burgess: No, I don't think so.
- Alison Monahan: I don't know. I'm kind of guessing maybe you're not going to be at least at full capacity, if you do anything.
- Lee Burgess: Right, yeah. Yeah, got to be realistic. So, do what you can to get your life in order.
- Alison Monahan: I think anything like appointments, like eye doctor stuff – do all that upfront, beforehand if you can. And just try to avoid having things like that that you have to deal with during these couple of months where you're going to be studying as much as possible.
- Lee Burgess: Yep. Alright, number eight – if you are studying early, you do need to be cautious of burnout. Make sure you don't study too much so you lose focus and start to see your performance drop. We talked about the benefits of studying early, but Alison, what is too much? What is really too much studying?



- Alison Monahan: Well, I think somebody who's trying to do a full study schedule of a typical bar prep company on top of also going to school. You don't need to do 12 hours a day if you're starting in March.
- Lee Burgess: Right.
- Alison Monahan: And you probably don't even need to do, say, three hours a day every day. Just kind of drop it in and make sure that you're spending some quality time, but you're not stressing yourself out too much, because I just don't think that's going to end up in a good place.
- Lee Burgess: No. No, this is different advice than if you are re-taking the exam and you're working full-time and studying – you do need to study early. You do need to follow a study schedule, because you're not going to be able to study full-time. But yeah, you can't study 12 hours a day for four months straight. You'll lose it.
- Alison Monahan: Yeah, and it's not generally necessary anyway.
- Lee Burgess: No.
- Alison Monahan: I think with working and studying, burnout is a real issue and it's something people do need to be cognizant of, and something we talk to people a lot about. Are you getting time off from work? What does that time off look like? Are you going to be able to protect that time? Are you saying you're going from 80 hours a week to 50 hours a week? That's still kind of a lot.
- Lee Burgess: Yeah, it's so true. You've got to be really realistic about your other life commitments when you're trying to find that balance.
- Alison Monahan: Yeah, and this is a place where I think the focus is so important. I would much rather see someone do three hours a day really focused studying where they're doing active learning, and do that every other day for a couple of months, versus like, "I'm going to do that every day, and I'm just going to get burned out" or, "I'm going to do six hours a day." Just do the time that you can realistically do, and stay reasonably fresh and make sure that you're making that time productive.
- Lee Burgess: Yep, I agree. Alright, and number nine – keeping the pandemic in mind...
- Alison Monahan: Do we have to?



- Lee Burgess: I know, I know. But you've got to give yourself some cushion for your bar prep. So many studiers since the beginning of COVID have gotten COVID while studying for the bar exam, or have had other health emergencies or family emergencies that they need to step in. I mean, life is challenging right now, and so I really encourage people to assume that they're going to lose some of their study time for some reason. You want to give yourself a little wiggle room so if you do get sick, you're not trying to study while sick. Again, just get better – that's the best thing to do, is to focus on getting better. So, if you are worried that life is complicated or if you're worried about COVID or other health things that could come up – again, just give yourself a little cushion. Start a little bit earlier, bank some hours of work, so it's not going to feel like a tragedy if you have to take a few days off.
- Alison Monahan: Yeah. I think this is so important, too, for parents because that's also unpredictable at this point. Your kid's going to have to be at home, all of these things. Yeah, and we're assuming the exam will be in-person, but there was a brief moment a few weeks ago, where maybe February even was looking like it wasn't going to be. So you just don't know what's going to happen, and I completely agree. The more you can do earlier, the more you have put into that tank, and then the better off you're going to be.
- Lee Burgess: Yeah. Alright, and number 10 – try to keep perspective.
- Alison Monahan: Good luck!
- Lee Burgess: I know. It is wise to just keep the bar exam in perspective, that it is incredibly important, but it is just a test. The worst thing that will happen is that you're just going to fail. And that's bad, but you can come back from it and have an amazing legal career. Plenty of people have. So, you just have to write it down somewhere, or meditate on it, or put a sticky note on your mirror to remind yourself that this is, when it comes down to it, a very important test, but it is still just a test.
- Alison Monahan: Right. And I think thinking of it as a test is beneficial in another way as well, because it doesn't have anything to say about your ability to be a good lawyer.
- Lee Burgess: True.
- Alison Monahan: It doesn't, we know that. And I think that can be frustrating for people sometimes, like, "I know I'm either so good at law school" or, "I did so well" or, "I think I'm going to be a great lawyer, even though I struggled in law school." Or, we see this a lot with the attorneys, like, "I'm already an attorney, I must



know how to do the performance test." That doesn't really have any bearing on your ability to do the performance test. The performance test, just like every other part of the exam, is an artificial exercise. And to pass the test, you just need to accumulate enough points from some piece of it. So, you don't have to be equally good on all of the parts of the test. If you're really strong in one area and not so great in the other, you can still pass. I think people just have to think of it almost like a game and more strategically of like, "What do I need to do to get to the point where I can accumulate enough points to pass this test?" And thinking about that, I think, can be helpful in kind of taking it out of this bigger thing of, "Oh my gosh, this is everything." No, it's a test, and you just need the points.

Lee Burgess: Yep, I know. It feels so powerful, but it's just a test. It's a point collection game.

Alison Monahan: Right, and the test can be gamified, basically, in certain ways. If you're doing poorly on a certain section of the MBE, that's a great opportunity because that gives you the opportunity to make those points up quickly if you get better at it.

Lee Burgess: Yep, absolutely. Well, we are about out of time. Any final thoughts for those studying for the July exam?

Alison Monahan: Well, I think I would just go back to the number one and kind of the beginning of this – get your ducks in a row, make sure that you're going to be able to sit for the exam with whatever accommodations you need. Make sure you're going to be able to graduate. And then I really think studying early for a lot of people is a good idea. How about you?

Lee Burgess: Yeah, I was thinking about it when I was working on this podcast, and I remember when people I knew took the February exam when I was a 3L, and then there was this moment where I realized we were next. Like your ticket's up next.

Alison Monahan: You're in the firing squad.

Lee Burgess: Yeah, and I remember it being somewhat chilling. And so, if you're having that moment where you realize that this is the next hurdle and that your group of friends is up next, this planning and early work just is going to lighten the load and make it not feel so like they're such treacherous waters. You definitely can do this, but a little planning is going to make it a lot better.

Alison Monahan: Yeah. I definitely felt like we did not get a lot of information about what we needed to do to plan for any of this at the school I attended. I think they just



kind of assumed you'll figure it out. But it would have been useful if I kind of thought ahead of this to like, "What do I want to do? Where am I going to take the exam?" I was still debating when to take the exam pretty far into the process.

Lee Burgess:

Yeah. Yep, so make your decisions, pick your path, and then execute it, pretty much. Well, with that, we are out of time. I want to take a second to remind you to check out our [blog](#) at BarExamToolbox.com, which is full of helpful tips to help you prepare and stay sane as you study for the bar exam. You can also find information on our website about our courses, tools, and one-on-one tutoring programs to support you as you study for the UBE or California bar exam. If you enjoyed this episode of the Bar Exam Toolbox podcast, please take a second to leave a review and rating on your favorite listening app. We'd really appreciate it. And be sure to subscribe so you don't miss anything. If you are still in law school, you might also like to check out our popular [Law School Toolbox podcast](#) as well. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or Alison at lee@barexamtoolbox.com or alison@barexamtoolbox.com. Or you can always contact us via our website [contact form](#) at BarExamToolbox.com. Thanks for listening, and we'll talk soon!

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