

Portfolio Evaluation: An Alternative to the Bar Exam



ELIGIBILITY

Applicant:

- Students: 1/2 of a 3-year JD, 5/8 of law clerk program or a 4-year JD
- Graduates: JD at an approved law school or completion of the law clerk program
- Foreign-law degree or graduates from unapproved schools: “LLM for the practice of law” (same requirements as APR 3(b)(3) & (4)).
- Eligible for Rule 9 legal intern license

Supervisors:

- Active WA lawyers in good standing, with 3+ years of practice, and no recent disciplinary issues.

5 STEPS

1. Apply to WSBA for admission by portfolio evaluation:

- Approved applicants receive a Rule 9 legal intern license

2. After approval from WSBA to participate and receipt of Rule 9 license:

- track supervised practice hours; and
- complete all required activities and portfolio items

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

(24 months to complete)

Education (ABA approved JD, complete law clerk program, or other law degree with “LLM for the practice of law”):

- If legal education was completed 6+ years ago, complete WSBA 15-credit law and practice refresher course

825 Hours of Supervised Practice:

- After WSBA approval to participate in portfolio evaluation
- Minimum 10 hours of client-facing time
- Keep detailed time records

Required Activities:

- Lead 2 client interviews or counselling sessions
- Engage in 1 negotiation
- Use research tools to develop the facts of a client matter
- Complete WSBA CLE on managing law-related workload and stressors of legal practice and use of technology in legal practice

Portfolio (Midpoint and Final):

- 2 written client counseling communications
- 2 persuasive legal documents
- 2 objective legal memoranda
- supervisor rubrics assessing required activities
- 1 supervisor rubric for management of a law-related workload
- 3 ethics essays (if electing not to take MPRE)

Exams:

- MPRE (unless opting to complete 3 ethics essays)
- Washington Law Component (online, open book)

3. Submit portfolios for grading:

- Midpoint & Final portfolios
- Portfolios graded by the Board of Bar Examiners

4. Complete standard preadmission requirements:

- Washington Law Component
- Pre-admission education (online)
- License forms and fees
- Oath

5. Admission and receive Bar license number.