

NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court
Administrative Office of the Courts



Contact: Aaron Nash
Phone: 602-452-3656
Email: anash@courts.az.gov

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Arizona Concludes First Online Bar Exam

PHOENIX – The Arizona Supreme Court offered an online bar exam for the first time in the state’s history on October 5 – 6, 2020. After typical last-minute withdrawals, 189 law graduates from around the country sat for the exam, primarily from their self-determined locations, with a small number using space provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Test takers in Arizona reported few technical problems with the first-of-its-kind event and those issues were resolved, allowing examinees to complete the exam.

The online exam was one of several alternatives offered to law school graduates in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Court successfully administered an in-person exam to nearly 400 test takers in July with social distancing and strict safety precautions. The October online exam was added as an option for those with reservations about health and safety and to make an exam available before the February 2021 administration of the exam. The Court earlier expedited a rule change to allow law school graduates to practice under the supervision of attorneys licensed in Arizona.

In response to COVID-19, states around the country offered online bar exams in August, September, and October with mixed results. The third-party vendor contracted to host Arizona’s online bar exam was selected for its years of experience offering online testing and exams, including experience with having more than 100,000 test takers using their platform at the same time. Results from Arizona’s October exam are anticipated by early December.

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