

Taking the Bar Exam on your personal laptop

Most states allow you to use a personal laptop computer to take the bar exam. There are a couple very important things to consider if you plan to use your laptop:

- 1) Rules and procedures vary by state so you must consult documentation provided by the state Bar exam administration.
- 2) Almost every state uses ExamSoft, which is exam-taking software that must be installed onto your computer.
- 3) **ExamSoft only runs on the Windows operating system. Mac users can install Windows if their computer meets the requirements listed below** (to check the specifications of your Mac, click on the Apple menu and select “About this Mac”):
 - a. Intel Mac (this excludes all powerbooks and ibooks).
 - b. A minimum of 1GB memory 2GB is recommended.
 - c. 15 GB of free hard-drive space.
 - d. Leopard version of OSX, version 10.5 or higher.

For Mac users, it is strongly recommended that you have Windows installed and configured at least 2 weeks before the deadline for registration. YLS IT can install Windows for you at no cost. This can be done by appointment. Email Marcin Kloc at marcin.kloc@yale.edu or call (203) 432-3509 to make an appointment. Expect a one-business day turn-around time.

Deadlines: Some states require you to download the Examsoft software and install it well in advance of the examination date. Other states have later deadlines. It is up to you to find this information and plan accordingly.

The health of your Windows installation (on a Mac and on a Windows laptop): We recommend that you confirm the health of your Windows operating system prior to installing the Examsoft software this will save you time and reduce last minute issues and problems.

- 1) Make sure all Windows updates are installed—Start>Settings>Control Panel>Windows Update.
- 2) Symantec antivirus is installed and up to date.
- 3) Running a full Symantec scan to insure your computer is not infected with malware or a virus/trojan.

If you have any questions or need assistance with any part of this process please contact Marcin Kloc at marcin.kloc@yale.edu or call (203) 432-3509 to make an appointment.