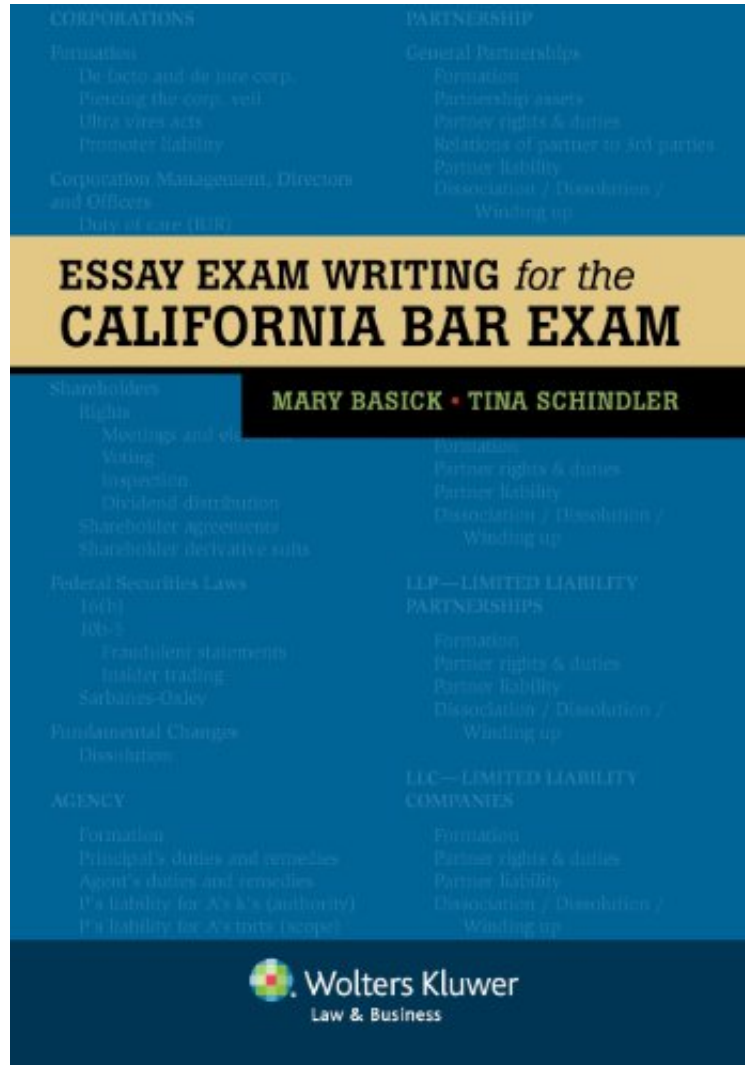


# Essay Exam Writing for the California Bar Exam

Mary Basick, Tina Schindler

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**Mary Basick, Tina Schindler : Essay Exam Writing for the California Bar Exam** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Essay Exam Writing for the California Bar Exam:

25 of 25 people found the following review helpful. This book is the reason I passed the CA bar. By beebs After paying over a thousand dollars for a commercial test prep course (Themis), I failed every single essay on the July 2013 CA bar exam. With just this book and the past exams available for free on the CA bar website, I passed the February 2014 exam. I found that Themis' course wasted so much time "teaching" every minute detail of the law that it left me with little energy for the single most important test-prep strategy: TAKE AS MANY PRACTICE EXAMS AS POSSIBLE. PERIOD. This book helps you with this most-important strategy for the following reasons: (1) The rule outlines provide

all the rules you need to know, written very concisely in the way the bar examiners want you to regurgitate them on the exam.(2) The book includes 6 sample essay questions for each subject with answer outlines that identify the "must-get" issues, making self-grading your own essays a breeze.(3) If you're having trouble with analysis, there are couple sample answers for each subject written by the actual author (i.e., not student samples) that you can learn from and practice imitating.In short, this book is the reason I passed the bar exam.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. OutstandingBy J. AlexanderI, like most law students, was very stressed about the bar exam. Of course, I took one of the standard bar prep courses. However, this book was extremely helpful. I would go so far as to say that, if you are one of those people who does not need to listen to lectures, it is all you need to pass the essay portion of the exam. I was lucky enough to pass the first time, and I attribute at least part of my success to this book.The book has the following features:1. A very short (one or two page) outline of each essay subject.2. A longer, (but still pretty short) comprehensive subject outline. This is one of the best features of the book. I did not find anything in my exam (July 2014) that was not covered in this outline. Much better than all the outlines I got from the bar prep course.3. Sample questions and an analysis of the answers.4. General tips and advice on writing the essays.A friend of mine, who had failed on his first try, but succeeded on his second, recommended this book to me, and told me how much it helped him the second time around. I totally agree, and have been recommending this book to my friends that still have to take the bar exam.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Good approach but many examples far too old.By AlephZenThe "tips" for approaching the essays are decent, the answer grids better than that. But the one problem with this book that I just cannot get over is the age of many of the questions. I have a hard time believing that I'll be very well served by practicing questions from 1984 or even 1990, for that matter. A quarter of a century ago??? I want to know how the examiners are framing questions today, I want --- no, \_need\_ --- to know about the kinds of questions they're posing today. Even questions from 2000 feel a little unsafe, or in any case a little \_less\_. But 1987? Come on.This needs to be updated and significantly. I feel a little ripped off.

Based on the authors' proven-effective methodology, Essay Exam Writing for the California Bar Exam contains everything you need to pass the essay portion of the California bar exam. Your roadmap to success, it combines instruction and practice in essay writing, fact analysis, and issue spotting, with a remarkably efficient review of substantive law. Along the way, you'll learn how to manage your time, develop a strategy for improving your testing performance, and ensure the consistent quality of your answers. Essay Exam Writing for the California Bar Exam From beginning to end, it's all here! The elements of a passing essay: Format, Issues, Rules, Analysis, Conclusion How to spot the issues and cite the rule correctly How to use the facts to craft effective analysis Making it easy for the exam grader to locate your analysis of the issues Practice Essays and Answer Gridsbased on analysis of previous California bar exams Sample essay answers that provide a model of a passing answer Self-assessment and strategyhow much time to spend on each issue in light of time constraints Troubleshooting tips to improve exam performance An efficiently condensed, user-friendly review of substantive law Focusing on the relationships among the rules Prioritizing most-frequently-tested topics Issues Tested Matrix--a detailed graph that analyzes the questions asked in each subject over the past 25 years, broken down by sub-topic frequency Issues Checklist--a one-page list of the issues tested in each subject, organized to aid issue spotting Memorization Attack Sheet--a bulleted list of the rules that apply to the Issues Checklist--a tool for memorization that also reinforces issue-spotting skills Annotated Rule Outline--a more complete version of the rules, in grammatically correct language--annotated with fact triggers , where helpful, to assist with issue spotting