



# NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

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June 29, 2018

The Honorable Janet DiFiore  
Chief Judge of the State of New York  
20 Eagle Street  
Albany, New York 12207

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Dear Chief Judge DiFiore, Past President Gerstman, and President Miller:

At Chief Judge DiFiore's request, we are writing to provide information about New York Practice enrollment at various law schools in New York.

As you know, in Spring 2015, New York announced that the Uniform Bar Exam would be adopted in New York, effective with the July 2016 bar exam administration. Since then, those seeking admission by examination have been required to sit for both the UBE and the New York Law Exam, an online, open book 50 multiple choice question test about New York law. Applicants are eligible to take the NYLE after completing the 15-hour New York Law Course, an online series of video lectures about 12 subjects specific to New York law.

Since the UBE was adopted, most law schools in New York have seen a marked decrease in student enrollment in their New York Practice courses. Overall, 77% fewer students are taking New York Practice. In comparison, overall J.D. enrollment decreased during this period only by 2%. A school-by-school breakdown is below. Our committee compiled this information in December 2017 and updated it last month.

This data has generated some discussion in our committee about a variety of issues related to the New York Law Course and the New York Law Exam. However, our committee has not taken any position on potential implications from the data. Nevertheless, we would like to invite you, Judge Rivera, or other members of the Court of Appeals or Board of Law Examiners to dialogue with us about this or other issues affecting legal education or bar admission.

We hope this letter is responsive to your request and look forward to hearing back from you if you would like to visit with our committee.

Sincerely,

***Larry Cunningham***

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Co-Chair, NYSBA Committee on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar

***Patricia E. Salkin***

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Co-Chair, NYSBA Committee on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar

cc: Deans of the New York law schools

School	Enrollments					Notes
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Percent Change	
Albany	254	208	78	76	-70%	Offers a two-semester 6-credit option and a one semester 4-credit option.
Brooklyn	126	88	72	31	-75%	Offers 2- and 3-credit versions.
Buffalo	142	110	72	51	-64%	3 credits
Cardozo	170	59	39	14	-92%	Offers 2- and 3-credit versions.
Columbia	7	0	0	0	-100%	
Cornell	0	0	0	0		Course has not been offered since 2011.
CUNY	93	50	48	27	-71%	Offers 3- and 4-credit versions.
Fordham	104	63	43	56	-46%	Course is 3 credits, offered twice per year.
Hofstra	124	20	24	31	-75%	3 credits
NYLS	330	115	27	21	-94%	Credits reduced after the UBE from 4 to 3.
NYU	0	0	0	0		Course has not been offered since 2010.
Pace	106	43	16	29	-73%	4 credits
St. John's	218	120	88	24	-89%	Used to be 4 credits. Starting Fall 2018, will be offered as two separate 2-credit courses.
Syracuse	89	30	29	31	-65%	3 credits
Touro	175	139	113	57	-67%	Credits reduced after the UBE from 4 to 3.
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1938</b>	<b>1045</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>-77%</b>	
Total Enrollment per ABA Reports	12033	11565	11472	11804	-2%	
New York Practice enrollment as a percentage of total JD enrollment	16.1%	9.0%	5.7%	3.8%	-12.3%	