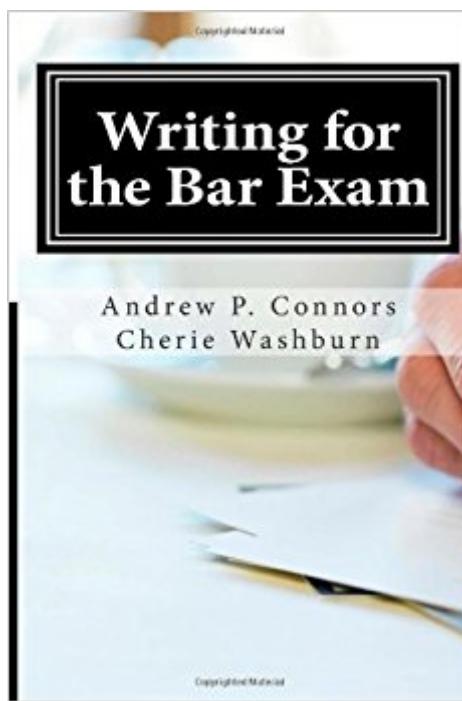


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Writing For The Bar Exam



Synopsis

Knowing the law isn't enough. To succeed on the bar, you must be able to communicate what you know. Andrew Connors and Cherie Washburn focus on the overlooked skill of essay writing, with an eye toward maximizing your score on the essay portion of the bar exam. Laying out a precise methodology and loaded with examples, this book fills a much needed gap in the bar preparation experience. Andrew P. Connors, Esq. and Cherie Washburn, Esq. are licensed attorneys in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Writing for the Bar Exam reflects their months of study evaluating bar exam essay answers.

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Customer Reviews

Like one of the book's authors, I was unsuccessful in my first attempt at the Virginia Bar Exam despite my intense preparation and devotion to the bar review course's timeline and study guide. My bar review course lacked in one significant area: how to write a bar exam essay that gets you the most points from the bar graders. This is not the way you learned to write for law school exams, and the method required for bar exam essays is not taught in bar review courses. This book teaches you that method, with detailed instructions that are certain to improve your bar score.

As you can tell from the chapter headings, this valuable resource guide provides everything you need to know about how to write an effective essay on the Bar Exam. This book maximizes your strengths and improves your weaknesses by teaching you how to organize your essay and apply

subject-specific analyses. The chapters are extremely, helpful extremely detailed and well worth your investment.

This is perhaps one of the most valuable books to get prior to taking the bar exam. Learning the law is one key goal, the other, and perhaps even more important, is articulating the law in a way that the bar exam grader can understand. Allowing the bar examiner to feel, "this person knows what they're talking about" can easily be the difference between pass and fail. I failed the first time I took the Virginia bar exam and it wasn't because I didn't know the law well enough. Reading more outlines and making more flash cards to learn more rules was not the answer. Although knowing the key rules of law is a must, focusing on articulating what I know in relation to the facts in the problem, and doing it very well, is what was missing. That tactic worked well through law school, but for whatever reason it didn't work well on the exam. Even the bar prep company said my essays were great! But apparently the examiner thought otherwise. Let's face it, the bar exam is a competition where strategies for bar exam success are held close to the vest. This book is one of those little secrets to bar exam success. It is a must have in your arsenal for taking a bar exam. Failing the bar exam is humbling and costly.

I read this book before I began studying to take the July 2012 Virginia bar exam. This book laid a solid foundation for essay writing and brought to light what the bar exam graders are commonly looking for. Reading this book before I began my 10 week bar exam study course was particularly beneficial because I was able to implement the techniques and writing strategy on all of my practice exams. In Virginia, essays are worth 60% while the MBE is only worth 40%, so having the ability to write a solid essay is absolutely necessary. Knowing that I wrote good essays on day one of the bar gave me confidence going into the second day MBE portion of the bar. I passed the bar on my first attempt and I do not doubt the fact that studying this book contributed to my success.

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