

## Resources:

American Bar Association  
[www.abanet.org](http://www.abanet.org)

American Bar Association - Bar Admissions  
[www.abanet.org/legaled/baradmissions/bar.html](http://www.abanet.org/legaled/baradmissions/bar.html)

Louisiana Committee on Bar Admissions  
[www.lascba.org](http://www.lascba.org)

Louisiana Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program  
[www.louisianajlap.com](http://www.louisianajlap.com)

La. S. Ct. Rule XVII Governing Bar Admissions  
[www.lascba.org/admission\\_rules.asp#s4c](http://www.lascba.org/admission_rules.asp#s4c)

National Conference on Bar Examiners (NCBE)  
[www.ncbex.org](http://www.ncbex.org)

NCBE MPRE Registration  
[www.ncbex.org/about-ncbe-exams/mpre/](http://www.ncbex.org/about-ncbe-exams/mpre/)



**Mission:** The Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program, Inc. (JLAP) serves the public, the Bar, and the profession by confidentially assisting lawyers or judges whose professional impairment may result from alcohol, drug abuse, or mental illness. JLAP also provides confidential assistance to law students and Bar applicants.

**Confidentiality:** JLAP is an absolutely confidential resource for an impaired lawyer, judge, or law student. Pursuant to La. R.S. 37:221 and La. Supreme Court Rule XIX, Sec. 16(J), any information received by JLAP must remain completely confidential and privileged as a matter of law.

For more information on JLAP's  
free and confidential services, contact:



1405 W. Causeway Approach  
Mandeville, Louisiana 70471

Phone: (985) 778-0571 | Fax: (985) 778-0574  
[JLAP@louisianajlap.com](mailto:JLAP@louisianajlap.com)  
[www.louisianajlap.com](http://www.louisianajlap.com)

# ARE YOU FIT TO BE AN ATTORNEY?



[www.louisianajlap.com](http://www.louisianajlap.com)  
(985) 778-0571

## THE IMPORTANCE OF HONEST DISCLOSURE

You are entering a profession that holds its members to a standard of utmost honesty that does not permit any exception for a “harmless” lie. Law schools require applicants to be completely forthcoming about their backgrounds and to disclose past behavior that may have a bearing on their qualification to study law or call their character and fitness into question as it relates to becoming a trusted member of the legal profession.

Most law schools require verification and ongoing updating of information provided in your law school application. Bar examiners in some states, such as Louisiana, review an applicant’s law school application and compare it to the person’s Bar application to further ensure the reliability of information.

### Substance Use Disorders and Mental Health

During the Bar admissions process, applicants will be asked whether or not they presently suffer from a substance use disorder or mental health condition that currently affects the applicant’s ability to practice law in a competent, ethical and professional manner.

As such, applicants who are experiencing current difficulties are encouraged to address those issues immediately while in law school and well prior to applying to the Bar by contacting the Louisiana Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program, Inc. (JLAP). All calls to JLAP are absolutely confidential as a matter of law (see La. R.S. 37:221). JLAP offers comprehensive, confidential mental health assistance to law students and can help them address mental health issues that might impact their admission to the Bar.



### The Character and Fitness Requirement

To be admitted to the Bar you must show that you are fit to practice law and have the necessary character and fitness to justify the trust and confidence that clients, the public and the legal system will place in you. The Louisiana Supreme Court’s Committee on Bar Admissions reviews applicants’ past conduct to ensure that they are honest, trustworthy, diligent and reliable. Past conduct that raises concerns about competence, character or fitness may cause the Committee on Bar Admissions to investigate further.

Full disclosure by applicants is required by the Committee on Bar Admissions. Bar application questions must be answered honestly and completely, and answers must match those in your law school application. Failure to candidly disclose all information is deemed a “lack of candor” and taken very seriously. It can result in denial of admission, even if the undisclosed conduct would not necessarily have resulted in denial of admission. According to the Committee on Bar Admissions, lack of candor is the most frequent basis for denial.

### Red Flags and Bar Admissions

The Committee on Bar Admissions typically considers the following conduct as cause for further inquiry:

- Arrests or criminal charges, whether or not resulting in a conviction or expunged
- Any unlawful conduct
- Academic or employment related misconduct
- Litigation
- Military misconduct
- Disciplinary action by a lawyer disciplinary agency of any jurisdiction
- Acts involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation
- Abuse of process
- Neglect of financial responsibilities or professional obligations
- Violation of a court order (child support, restraining orders or other disobedience of court directives)
- Conduct evidencing mental or emotional instability
- Conduct evidencing drug or alcohol issues (DWI, underage drinking, drug-related charges, etc.)

These are grounds for further inquiry but do not mean that your application for admission will necessarily be denied. If you have engaged in any conduct of concern, you should seek more information on the character and fitness requirements from one of the resources identified in this brochure. If your past conduct evidences drug, alcohol, or mental health issues you should definitely contact JLAP for support.