How to Survive Bar Review

Presented by
Academic & Professional Development

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AGENDA

1. BRICS Overview
2. A Time Management Approach
3. Your Friends and Family
GOAL FOR BRICS WORKSHOPS

To provide you with some useful tips and strategies that supplement the work you’re doing in your Bar Review courses.

And to provide you with some additional opportunities practice your Bar essay and performance test writing, and receive feedback.
WHAT IS BRICS?

1. BRICS Workshops, starting today
   • Next Wednesday, 6/4 – Contracts
   • Wednesday, 6/11 – Evidence
   • Wednesday, 6/18 – Property
   • Wednesday, 7/2 – Bar Graders Panel

Substantive workshops will focus on how to approach and write a Bar Exam essay on a commonly tested topic.
WHAT IS BRICS?

2. BRICS Essay Feedback

Following each substantive workshop, we will distribute a Bar Exam essay question that SCU Bar-takers can write on their own time and submit within a week for feedback.
WHAT IS BRICS?

3. BRICS Performance Test Feedback

We are also going to distribute a performance test that you can take on your own time and submit for comments. Your performance test must be submitted no later than Thursday, June 26.

Paper copies of the PT will be able at the end of today’s workshop, along with a brief introductory guide to PTs for students who haven’t been exposed to PTs yet. These materials will also be available online.
WHAT IS BRICS?

4. BarEssays.com Access

All SCU Bar-takers have access to this database of past California Bar Exam questions, released answers, and actual graded answers.

Sign-up using your @scu.edu email account and the coupon code: SCU.
WHAT IS BRICS?

5. BRICS Wellness Programs

- Tuesday, 6/24 – Furry Friends and Ice Cream
- Wednesdays at 3pm – Barbells and the Bar Exam

Please note your interest in participating on today’s sign-in sheet.
WHAT IS BRICS?

6. BRICS Coaching Appointments

- Self-scheduling at http://law.scu.edu/apd/
- Call 408/551-1609
- Email brics@scu.edu
- Walk-in and speak to the APD receptionist
ONLINE ACCESS TO BRICS

All workshop materials and videos, essay questions, and performance tests will be posted online at http://law.scu.edu/apd/.

If you’re out of the area, we can schedule a coaching appointment via Skype.
A number of SCU faculty members are available this summer to answer your questions on substantive points of law.

When you contact them, please make sure to let them know you’re studying for the Bar.
AN APPROACH TO MANAGING YOUR TIME THIS SUMMER

1. Before 4th of July
2. After 4th of July
3. The weekend before the exam
MANAGING YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY THIS SUMMER

GOALS:

• **Preserve** your relationships with spouse, partner, parents, siblings, children, and friends during a time when you are physically and emotionally less available.

• **Get support** from relationships, or at least ensure they do no harm.
HAVE THE CONVERSATION
RELATIONSHIP PRESERVATION

1. Manage expectations by explaining the Bar Exam and Bar Review. (Give them the letter.)

2. Set aside time daily or weekly (depending on relationship.)

3. For high maintenance relatives, appoint one contact person.

4. Avoid drama. Almost every issue can be postponed until August.
GETTING SUPPORT

1. Identify your needs.
   - Grocery shopping and meals?
   - Childcare?
   - Laundry?
   - Housecleaning?
   - Finances?
   - Exercise buddy?

2. Ask for help.
COMMON BAR “FEELING-RELATED PROBLEMS”

The feeling that:

• You don’t have enough time for everything.

• You are overwhelmed.

• You are burnt out.

• You have lost your confidence.
THE TOP FIVE INDIVIDUAL THINGS I NEED TO IMPROVE ON BEFORE THE BAR EXAM
THE TOP FIVE STRATEGIES THAT WORKED BEST FOR ME IN LAW SCHOOL
SIX DAYS BETWEEN NOW AND THE EXAM WHEN I GIVE MYSELF PERMISSION TO TAKE A BREAK AND WHAT I’M GOING TO DO
MY TOP FIVE RESOURCES
RESPONDING TO NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

1. Wait until the strongest of your emotional reactions has ebbed.

2. Make sure you understand what you’ve been told.

3. Negotiate with yourself how to address the issue.
WE’RE HERE TO HELP

We created BRICS because we don’t want you to feel alone during the Bar study process. The Law School wants you to succeed and is here to help. Please use us.

• Schedule a Bar coaching appointment.
• Swing by our offices to ask for help.
• Submit essays for feedback.
• Study in the APD Resource Room.

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