



Merlin Bar Review

We bring out the Wizard in you!

*“I am indebted to Merlin...
for teaching me what no one else could, or did.”*

LIVE INSTRUCTION IN EVERY SESSION

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Prep for Essays, MBE, and MPT. No additional course needed

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Only 30 students in every session

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Essays graded with personalized, detailed feedback

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Choose Evening or Daytime

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One-on-one assistance included

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\$ 2,100

Faculty

Marlon Ritchie, a Maryland Attorney, graduated *cum laude* from Georgetown Law, where he obtained an A- average for two years, attending full-time at age 38 while having a family. He has tutored students at Georgetown Law in a variety of subjects since 1995. He previously managed a Kaplan Center in Queens, NY, where he trained Instructors and taught several courses. He has appeared on several radio shows and he was featured on Fox Television's program on testprep. He was a Research Engineer and has used the concepts of efficiency and optimization in developing a program that is effective without fluff, time-wasting and stress. He has drawn on his experience of living in England, Australia, and the Caribbean, and traveling to Europe, the Far East, and Canada to produce a refreshing, highly effective "outside looking in" approach to the Bar.

THE MERLIN DEDUCTIVE METHOD

The Bar is just another standardized test and hence has its own style and idiosyncrasies. A truly effective course hence teaches both Law and Strategy. Hence, the thrust of the Merlin course is focusing on the right law and maximizing your time. We believe that "straight lecturing" is essential, but we also believe that the most effective way to learn the law in both the MBE and Essays is to focus on fact-patterns that clarify the law; these-fact patterns come directly from past MBE and Essay questions. More than half of the class time is spent discussing the questions as well as modifying the fact patterns so that: the law is clear, you are intimately acquainted with the test, and you are anticipating fact patterns that may show up on your exam. A crucial component is the grading of Essays, MPT's and MBE Assignments; You get written, personalized feedback so that you can master these areas.

By having just one Instructor, you are guaranteed personalized attention: The Instructor tracks your progress, knows and works on your weaknesses, and is available for consultations outside of class. In the last three weeks, every class is an "enrichment class" as we "fine tune" by clarifying law and strategy.



*"Marlon's innovative program turned despair into triumph:
I passed MD and I have a high MBE score to waive into DC.
His MBE method, his approach to the Essays,
and the personalized service are not only unique but highly effective."*

Why Choose Merlin?

The fact is that, in Maryland, approximately 30% of the first-time Bar takers who have taken a Bar Review Course fail the Bar!

The major companies "use a sledgehammer to kill a fly," but many students cannot even lift the sledgehammer properly. They'll argue that their method works - that's true if you consider a 70% success rate as "working"! You are led to believe that passing the Bar requires trying to learn an unbelievably vast body of law, and that there is a mysterious, "secret of writing the winning Bar Essay", and that they alone have access to this "secret".

Merlin, however, takes the logical "Flyswatter approach". We only care about passing: 70% on the Essays plus 65% on the MBE and you pass - period! Clearly, the Bar examiners do not expect you to know everything - not even close! In Maryland, when it gets complicated and/or too much to remember, they give you the Statute (in Sales, Civil Procedure, Commercial Paper, Negotiable Instruments, sometimes Family Law). Merlin appreciates and stresses the subtleties of the Exam, but the subtleties are not on the "gap" areas of the law, the subtleties are on the regular areas of law.

For example, are you clear on the following issues of basic, "regular" Law?

- The distinction between intrinsic and extrinsic evidence, and when they can be used in impeachment.
- The standards of review in equal protection.
- The distinction between "on-the-contract" and "off-the-contract"
- What "intent," "actual malice," "the best evidence rule," and "malice aforethought" really mean.
- The difference, as well as the overlap, between products liability and strict liability.
- The difference between "past recollection recorded" and "present recollection refreshed".

Believe it or not, passing the Maryland Bar is about having a thorough understanding of the basics of every topic. It is also about responding to the style of the test: in the MBE, this means predicting the answers; in the Essays, this means focusing on the topics that are frequently tested and not wasting time memorizing 1) **Statutes that you'll be given on the test**, and 2) **Maryland Distinctions that are rarely tested**.

With Merlin's Deductive Method, you integrate your MBE and Essay studies for Contracts, Evidence, Con. Law, Property, Torts and Crim. You will be able to 1) **predict the MBE answers**, taking the guesswork out of the "Multiguess," and 2) **spot all of the issues on the Essays**, maximizing your score. For the Statute-driven subjects [Civil Procedure and Commercial Law], Merlin's Proactive Method will let you spot all of the issues while maximizing your time. Merlin students love Statute questions - they're "freebies."

Mr. Ritchie is both a Lawyer and a Test-prep expert; that's what you need!



"As a first-time taker, I was astonished at how concise the notes were. I was also concerned because all of my friends had books and books of notes from the other companies. Mr. Ritchie said, "Learn all of the notes that I gave you and use the strategies and you'll pass easily." He insisted on telling me this at every class and in every phone conversation. He was so right - that's just what I did!"



SCHEDULE

July Exam: Last week in May to the Thursday before the exam
February Exam: Mid-December to the Thursday before the exam

Three 3-hour classes per week on Mon, Tue, and Thu.

Evenings: 7 pm to 10 pm
Daytime: 9 am to 12 noon

Location: Columbia, located about 2 blocks from the Mall.
[20 minutes from Baltimore]



“This course is truly amazing – you’re given just the right amount of notes as well as strategies and techniques to effectively utilize those notes.

I especially liked the fact that the information and strategies for Torts, Contracts, Crim, Evidence, Con Law, and Property allowed me to study for both Essays and MBE simultaneously by treating the MBE questions as “mini-essays.” The strategies for the Statutes were also excellent. At my first try, I knew that I had passed easily when I walked out of the exam.”

“It was a blessing hearing Marlon on WHUR radio: after many tries I finally passed when I took his course. He is outstanding at finding ways to clarify complicated issues of law and also in instilling confidence in his students.”

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