

[Name, address, and Date Redacted.]

Accommodations Personal Statement

To whom it may concern:

My name is [redacted]; I have been completely blind almost my entire life. I have had no light perception since infancy (approximately [year redacted]) due to stage 5 retinopathy of prematurity caused by medical malpractice. This condition prevents me from reading or writing any printed material and otherwise interpreting anything that requires vision. As my condition is unchanging, all medical documentation continues to remain valid and accurate. Since the Bar is the most important exam I have yet to take, I respectfully request the following accommodations, historically established through precedent and documented throughout my life, to compensate for my visual deficit. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended (42 U.S.C.S. § 12101 et seq.), applicable regulations, and state case law, I respectfully request the following:

(1) A Screen-readable Microsoft Word exam, readable by a computer with the screen-reader software Jaws 2020 or newer, to take the exam. This format should have headings to facilitate finding content and delineating between separate questions and sections.

(2) Extended double time (up to and including +100%) to provide sufficient time to read, process, and answer the exam questions.

(3) The use of a laptop computer (I can bring my own) equipped with the screen-reader Jaws 2020 or newer to take the exam.

(4) The use of headphones (I can bring my own) to listen to the exam. This ensures accurate audio fidelity, minimizes most auditory errors, and decreases the need to constantly adjust the volume from the computer's speaker.

(5) A private room in which to take the exam. This allows me to hear JAWS clearly and reduces distractions for both me and other test-takers, particularly when a scribe verbally transfers my answers to the scantron form.

(6) The use of an electronic braille, "Braillenote" (I can bring my own) on all parts (written and multiple-choice) of the exam, to convert, read, and answer the exam. The Braillenote, an accommodation affirmed, offered, and granted by many testing organizations, allows me to write and read my answers to the MPT and MEE questions—directly in braille—as I have been doing throughout my educational career. There is no substitute for being able to read one's answers oneself, in my case with my own hands; reading and writing my answers in braille on the Braillenote gives me this ability. It also minimizes the time I require to move between many windows and documents on the computer, keeping the exam and answers on separate platforms.

(7) Similarly, the ability to electronically take notes (on the Braillenote) during the

multiple-choice parts of the examination. This substitutes for cited written notes, highlighting, underlining, ETC. This allows me to verify my selected answers before dictating them to the scribe. Dictating my notes to a scribe who would then repeat them to me is not an efficient or feasible option.

(8) The use of a blank flash drive (I can bring my own) to convert and transfer answers between computer and Brailnote. The Brailnote processes in its proprietary KWB format; consequently, I will need a medium by which to transfer the converted braille-to-text files to the computer and upload thereafter.

(9) Additional time (not counted against or part of the extended testing time) to convert and format the exam and resulting answers into Braille/Text at the beginning and end of the exam. (Converting to other file types (e.g., txt) is sometimes necessary to remove or fix formatting errors, and a few minutes are required to export from braille KWB to a text file.)

(10) The use of a reader/scribe/amanuensis to complete the scantron sheet, as I cannot bubble in the answers without sighted assistance.

(11) Waiver of the laptop secure software, as it is not screen-reader friendly and prevents me from accessing both answers and exam simultaneously.

(12) Spellcheck and grammar check, including the ability to correct detected errors and verify those words that JAWS and braille do not accurately speak and convert.

(13) Religious (Muslim) Prayer breaks for the five daily prayers; food and bathroom breaks for this multi-day exam (see attached letter).

Supporting my request, I have enclosed medical documentation and previously received accommodations, including those from the University of [Name Redacted], College Board (ACT, AP, and SAT), LSAC (LSAT), NCBE (MPRE), and primary scholastic education (school IEPs).

I thank you for your understanding.

Appreciatively yours, most sincerely,

[Name and Date Redacted.]