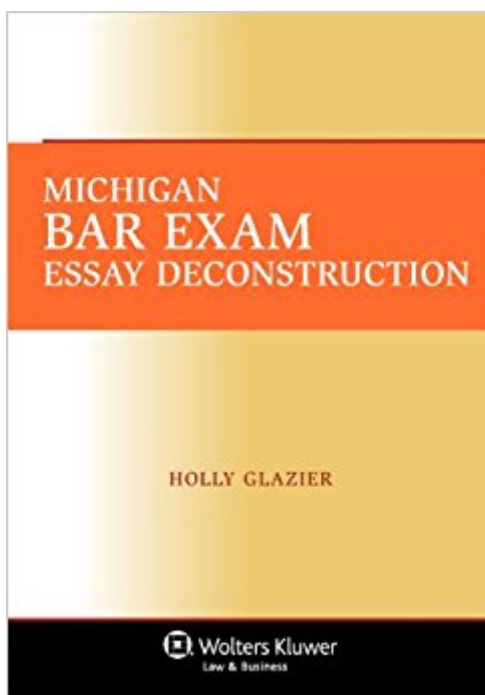


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# Michigan Bar Exam Essay Deconstruction



## Synopsis

Often overlooked and under-emphasized in commercial bar review courses, the essay portion of the Michigan Bar can truly save examinees on the Michigan Bar Exam. While the bar examiners claim the essay score is worth the same as your MBE score, after the scaling and conversion of your scores, the essays are actually worth more than your MBE score. It is far easier to improve your essay score on the bar exam than your MBE score--and this book is designed to do just that! Michigan Bar Exam Essay Deconstruction gives you the extensive instruction and skill-building practice needed to write 15 strong essays in six-and-a-half hours. Learn how to attack each essay to get the most points, write according to what the graders are looking for, and stay ahead of the clock. With over a decade of experience working with the Michigan Bar Exam, Holly Glazier has helped thousands of students successfully pass the bar on their first try. She has also helped over a hundred students pass the exam on appeal. Therefore, she knows exactly what the graders are looking for and shares her expertise and inside tips in this book. With clear guidelines and instructions specific to the MI Bar Exam, this dynamic study tool features:

- The Fundamentals of the Michigan Bar Exam --including important administrative information that is often lacking from commercial bar review courses.
- How to grade your own essays like a Michigan Bar examiner--learn how they think
- What is most likely to turn up on your essay exam--how to make the best use of your study time
- Essay Deconstruction--how to break down and attack each essay to gain the most points
- How to Build a Great Essay--hone your writing skills with practice exercises that teach you how to write a great answer when you know what you--re talking about (Plan A) and how to get the most points when you don't (Plan B)!
- Previous MI Bar Exam questions and model answers--familiarity breeds success
- Organized in clusters, like the exam itself each focuses on a different subject
- Actual essays by students and the grades they received--reveal what graders expect, which reduces anxiety by showing you that what is expected by the graders is doable!
- Sample MI Bar Exams --makes you familiar with the actual essay exam format

## Book Information

Paperback: 960 pages

Publisher: Aspen Publishers (December 9, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0735509956

ISBN-13: 978-0735509955

Product Dimensions: 7 x 1.9 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.9 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 28 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #995,235 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #85 in Books > Education & Teaching > Higher & Continuing Education > Test Preparation > Professional > Bar Exam #296 in Books > Law > Legal Education > Test Preparation #303 in Books > Law > Ethics & Professional Responsibility

## Customer Reviews

The Michigan Bar Exam Essay graders have turned the level of difficulty knob up a few ramps since July 2012. So, if you are not strong on essay writing for certain subjects (e.g., Secured Transactions, Domestic Relations, Criminal Procedure, No Fault Insurance, Workers Comp, Contracts, or let's say Evidence) then this wonderful study can help you resolve the essay study approach and teach you on how to write for those subjects you are weak in. It is my opinion that Barbri does not adequately prepare you for the essays with their past MI essay booklet because their book is full of model answers that provide all the answers but not a structure to teach you how to allocate the time necessary to write a passing essay grade. This study aid contains past student exam essays (that have either received a 7/10, 8/10, 9/10, or a 10/10 on the MI Bar exam--which were obtained by failing exam takers but received in their process for appealing their exam essay grades). I went through the whole book and re typed the student answers and made my own model answers/flash cards and memorized their style of writing for the February 2014 Michigan Bar Essay Exam. I passed the MI exam essays sections to be able to receive a total raw score of  $103(*4/3) =$  coming to a Michigan essay total score of  $137.3333 + 140$  (on the MBE) on the essay to = a final score of 138 = enough to pass the Michigan February 2014 Bar Exam. I had been a multiple bar exam retaker prior to passing and my weakness had been not knowing how to have an excellent style of writing for the Michigan Bar Exam Essay portion. This book helped me bridge those weak gaps.

Lots of exam questions from more than 10 years ago. I worry that some laws have changed since then. Also, I have yet to find an essay that earned 5 points or fewer. I wanted to see what a really low scoring essay was like. That being said, I do like being able to review student answers. The difference between the bar examiners' analysis and a 10 point answer is quite interesting, and it reassures me that I can pass this thing. My commercial bar prep program has mostly examiner analyses instead of sample answers, and it's hard to gauge the expectation from that. Several of the

essays are used in my commercial program, and my law school has many of these essays available for free, but I like having the paper book to work from. \$53 seems high for old essays.

This book was more valuable to me than the traditional bar review course. The bar review course is necessary for the outlines, but this book helped me understand how the questions are laid out and what sort of answers the law examiners are looking for. I went through every single question in this book and made my own outline of the most frequently-tested subjects. It really helped me focus my studying. I took the bar this week and the essays almost felt easy.

I found this book to be a very useful study tool during my bar examination preparation and I feel as though this book was truly critical to my success in the essay portion of the Michigan Bar Examination. However, I wish the publisher would allow the author to update the materials to include more recent bar examinations. An update of this book would allow for an analysis of highly likely tested subjects and help future buyers better prepare for this critical examination. This author is very thorough, a great educator, and this is a great tool for a highly subjective portion of a difficult examination.

Having recently passed the July 2013 Michigan Bar Exam, I found Glazier's supplement to be highly helpful. This supplement deserves five stars because it can be used by anyone preparing for the Michigan's bar exam: a first-time test-taker, anyone studying on their own, and even those using one of the large test-prep company programs. I used this supplement in conjunction with one of the large test-prep company programs and I can assure you that, although some of the questions were covered under my program, this supplement was still well worth the money. This supplement contains over a decade of past Michigan bar exam essay questions. In addition, most of the essay questions also contain student answers and model answers from the Michigan Board of Law Examiners. What made this supplement most helpful was that the student answers are graded, so you can not only compare your answer to another student's, but also see what type of student answer gets what score from the grader's perspective. There are two absolutely crucial reasons to buy this supplement even if you are using a test-prep program. First, this supplement contains so many old state essay questions that you can tell what legal rules are tested more often from exam to exam. I was able to focus my studying and memorizing efforts. Second, the amount of old essay questions also allows you to see pretty much every question pattern that the Michigan Board of Law Examiners can possibly throw at you. For instance, the personal property question on the July 2013

examination was quite similar to an older personal property question contained in this supplement. I didn't even have to outline that question on the exam because I already knew how to structure that question's answer and I knew the rules by heart. Needless to say that question was one of three questions that I received a "10" on. There are some slight downsides to Glazier's text. First, it has not been updated since 2011 and there have been some significant changes since then. The Michigan Board of Law Examiner's has not only changed the weight of each section on the exam, but also appears to have given the essay portion of the exam more scrutiny. It would be helpful if this supplement was updated with some recent essay questions and graded student answers. Second, this supplement contains only questions and answers. There are no bullet point lists of what you need to know for each section, or any other sort of outline guide. Nevertheless, reading through each question and taking notes on what legal rules were examined is still extremely helpful. Regardless of any defects that this supplement might have, I highly recommend it for any future Michigan Bar Exam test-taker. Good Luck!

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