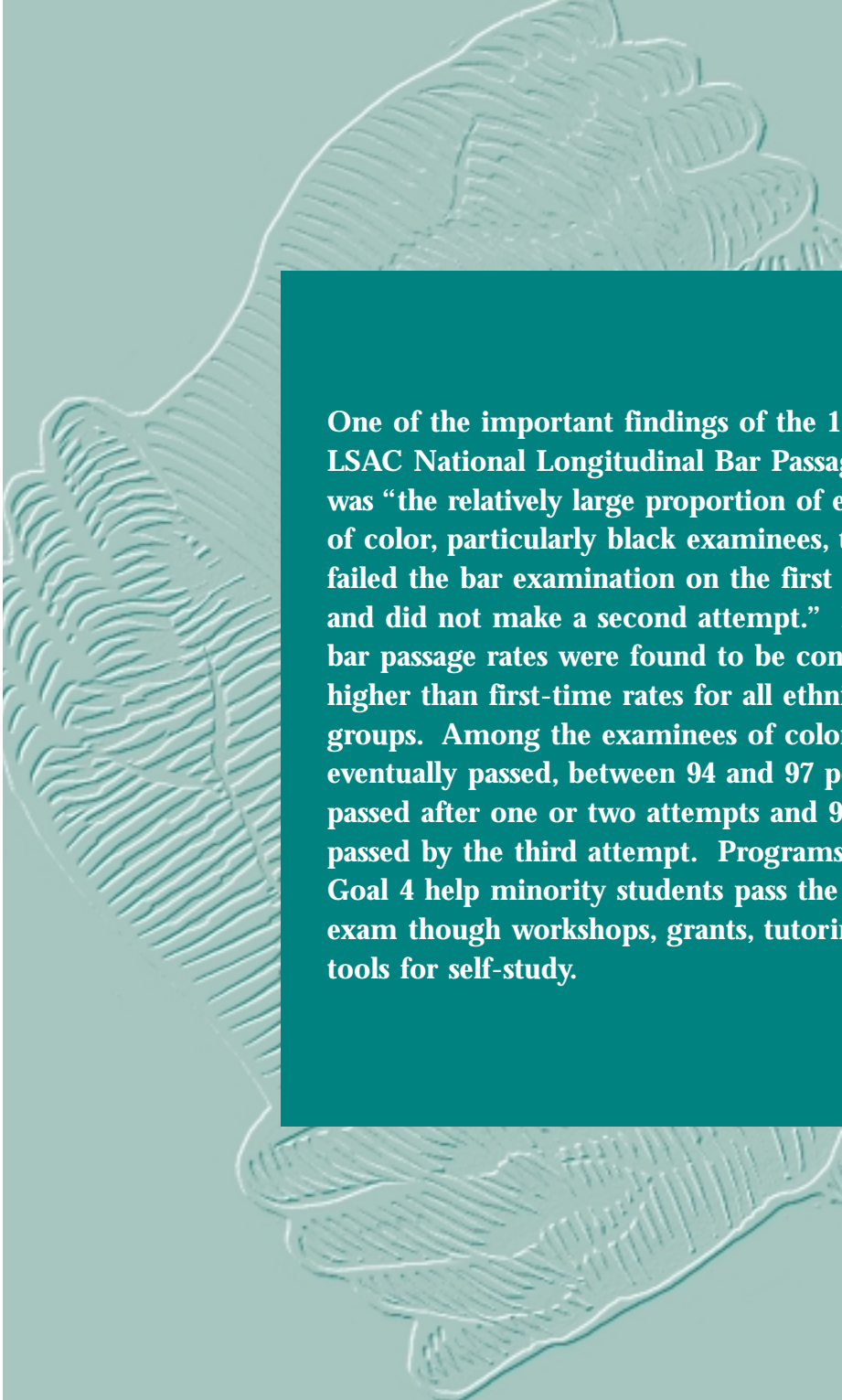


Goal 4: Increase the number of minority students who pass the bar exam.



One of the important findings of the 1998 LSAC National Longitudinal Bar Passage Study was “the relatively large proportion of examinees of color, particularly black examinees, that failed the bar examination on the first attempt and did not make a second attempt.” Eventual bar passage rates were found to be considerably higher than first-time rates for all ethnic groups. Among the examinees of color who eventually passed, between 94 and 97 percent passed after one or two attempts and 99 percent passed by the third attempt. Programs under Goal 4 help minority students pass the bar exam through workshops, grants, tutoring and tools for self-study.

Goal 4

Legal and Professional Skills Center

Contact: Edna Wells Handy
Legal and Professional Skills Center
186 Rutland Road
Brooklyn, NY 11225
Phone: (718) 856-3123
Fax: (718) 703-8328
E-mail: askedna23@aol.com

Mission:

To increase the number of minorities in the profession by providing bar preparatory advice for at-risk students. At-risk students are identified as students with low LSATs, low law school GPA, students of color, students with special learning needs, and repeat exam takers.

Programs:

Bar Exam Tutorials for Minority Students. This program teaches students *how* to study for the bar exam, not *what* to study. Diagnostic tests are performed on students to determine a student's strengths and weaknesses. From there, an individual schedule is designed for each student and coaching is provided to help them stay focused and committed. Students pay \$600-\$1,200, depending on the length of the session. The sessions are subsidized by some law schools.

Bar Exam Study Guide. You Can Pass Any Bar Exam is a step-by-step guide that provides strategies for minority students to overcome negative thinking; make the most out of study time, choose the best Bar Review; organize effective essays; prepare for the standardized tests; prevent the cycle of failure; and find model exams and answers. (Published by Practising Law Institute, New York, NY 1997).

Minority Legal Education Resources

Contact: Minority Legal Education Resources
P.O. Box 641485
Chicago, IL 60664
Phone: (312) 409-7852
E-mail: mlerprogram@aol.com

Mission:

MLER is a not-for-profit organization designed and dedicated to increasing the number of minority attorneys. The program links volunteer attorneys with law students to provide educational services, professional guidance and emotional support to minority bar candidates through a supplemental bar preparation program and other endeavors. To further its goal, MLER maintains positive interaction with organizations and institutions in the minority, legal and business communities. It also works toward expansion of its services to other jurisdictions.

instruct small group sessions. Weekly practice exams are given and are graded by an instructor. Students pay \$100 for the program and they must attend a mandatory orientation program.

Program:

MLER's primary activity is the administration of its supplemental bar preparation program. Volunteer attorneys, who are trained and certified by MLER, provide technical assistance and support to minority law school graduates preparing to take the Illinois Bar Exam. The program is designed to supplement commercial bar review courses by providing structured study time, with an emphasis on test-taking techniques and essay writing skills. The program does not compete with commercial bar review courses and does not endeavor to provide a review of substantive law. The MLER program is offered twice a year beginning in January and June. It consists of small group sessions, lectures and large mock group exam sessions on Illinois, MEE, MPT, and MBE questions. Volunteer attorneys lead and

Goal 4

Oregon State Bar Affirmative Action Committee

Contact: Stella Kinue Manabe
Affirmative Action Program Administrator
Oregon State Bar Association
5200 SW Meadows Road
Lake Oswego, OR 97035-0889

Phone: (503) 620-0222, ext. 337
Fax: (503) 598-6937
E-mail: smanabe@osbar.org

Mission:

The Affirmative Action Committee (AAC) endeavors to increase the diversity of the Oregon bench and bar so that it reflects the diversity of the people of Oregon by educating attorneys about the cultural richness and diversity of the clients they serve, and by removing barriers to justice. The AAC recommends policy and also supports the Affirmative Action Program (AAP) to achieve and retain a more diverse bar through outreach and financial assistance programs.

The following programs fall under the Oregon State Bar's OLIO program. OLIO (Opportunities for Law in Oregon) is a strategy to recruit and retain ethnic minorities to the practice of law in Oregon.

Programs:

Bar Exam Grants. The AAC awards bar exam grants in the fall and spring to those applicants whose personal experiences, accomplishments, commitment to practice law in Oregon, and financial need demonstrate that they will help the committee achieve its mission. The ten grants cover the fees for the bar exam application and for a commercial bar preparation course.

Bar Exam Workshop. Ethnic minorities taking the Oregon State Bar Examination can attend a 3-hour workshop on skills, time and stress management, and other topics related to passing the bar exam.

Applicants' families are invited to attend the first hour of the session that focuses on cultural issues that ethnic minority applicants have faced in preparing and sitting for the exam.

Practicing Attorneys for Law Students Program, Inc. (PALS®)

Contacts:	Patrick A. Bradford Davis Polk & Wardwell 450 Lexington Avenue New York, NY 10017	Richard T. Roberts Chairperson PALS® 42 W. 44th Street New York, NY 10036
Phone:	(212) 450-4000	Phone: (212) 730-PALS
Fax:	(212) 450-4800	Website: www.palsprogram.org
E-mail:	bradford@dpw.com	

Mission:

The mission of PALS®, a not-for-profit 501© (3) organization, is to help law school students enhance their career opportunities across the spectrum of legal fields and practice environments.

Program:

PALS® matches minority law students with volunteer lawyers who serve as mentors and provide career guidance for minorities in the legal profession. Services are offered free of charge to law students attending any of thirteen New York metropolitan area law schools. As part of its programmatic offerings, PALS® assists minority law students in passing the bar exam through its Supplemental Bar Tutorials.

“We know that we can never make real our ideal of one America unless every American of every background has access to the world’s best schools, the world’s best teachers, the world’s best education.”

— President Clinton

“ 100 people

If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like the following.

There would be:

57 Asians

21 Europeans

14 from the Western Hemisphere, both north and south

8 Africans

52 would be female

48 would be male

70 would be nonwhite

30 would be white

70 would be non-Christian

30 would be Christian

89 would be heterosexual

11 would be homosexual

6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all 6 would be from the United States

80 would live in substandard housing

70 would be unable to read

50 would suffer from malnutrition

1 would be near death; 1 would be near birth

1 (yes, only 1) would have a college education

1 would own a computer

"When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for both acceptance, understanding and education becomes glaringly apparent."

—Phillip M. Harter, MD, FACEP

Stanford University, School of Medicine