

## What you'll need to take the Bar Exam on an Apple computer

### (1) An Apple laptop with an Intel processor.

- If you are taking the Bar this summer (July 2008) and bought your computer before going to law school, your laptop does **not** have an Intel processor. You have a PPC-based iBook or PowerBook. *You **cannot** use this computer to take the Bar Exam.*
- All of the MacBooks – MacBook, MacBook Air, MacBook Pro – have Intel processors and can be used to take the Bar Exam.

### (2) OS X v. 10.5 (Leopard).

- 10.5 includes the final, supported version of Boot Camp. You'll need this version of Boot Camp to boot into Windows.
- If you're buying a new computer, it will come with OS X 10.5 pre-installed.

### (3) A purchased, installed copy of Windows. Only XP will work.

- Vista may be authorized for use in the future, but for now it is not.
- Note: Microsoft Office is not needed.

### (4) SofTest (see Bar Exam Certification info sheet).

#### Buying a new MacBook? Some tips...

We do get a student discount on a new MacBook from Apple. They have an online USF Law Store, accessible from the main Apple Store site. We also get a discount in person at any Apple Store - just show them your ID.

Unless you have a friend working at Apple, your student discount will likely get you the lowest price on a new MacBook. If you want a plain, vanilla MacBook (not Air or Pro), the USF Bookstore currently has a few machines left in stock at the lowest available price. Another option is a refurbished MacBook from the Apple Store.

You should also factor in the price of an AppleCare warranty. In my experience, AppleCare pays for itself... in repairs if you're not so lucky, in peace of mind even if you are lucky.

#### Buying Windows

You'll need a copy of Windows installed in order to take the Bar Exam. The two options are Vista and XP. Microsoft is officially ending support for XP at the end of the Summer, however Vista is something of a memory hog and doesn't run as quickly as XP. Your call, either way.

Note: Remember to install the drivers for the Windows system. This is easily done using the OS X install CD.

#### Virtualization Software

I'd also recommend buying virtualization software, which will let you use Windows software (such as Office for Windows, if you'd prefer that version) inside of OS X.

Virtualization software differs from Boot Camp because where Boot Camp lets you start up your computer running Windows, as though it were any other Dell, IBM, Sony, etc., virtualization software boots your computer into Apple's OS X, and then runs Windows and Windows programs *within* OS X. Sorta like picture-in-picture on a TV, or like how Vatican City is separate but still within Rome (and Italy, for that matter).

There are two options for virtualization software: Parallels or VMWare's Fusion. Check here for more information: <http://chris.pirillo.com/2008/02/19/boot-camp-vs-vmware-or-parallels/>

Note: Parallels, Fusion, and other virtualization programs will not be usable while running SofTest. Only Boot Camp will work.

### **Office**

We have a number of options, including iWork from Apple, Microsoft Office for OS X, Microsoft Office for Windows, OpenOffice or NeoOffice. *If you already have a Mac, you can just transfer your licensed software over to your new Mac from your old Mac. Drag and drop.*

We're all familiar with Microsoft Office, so I'll focus on the rest...

**Apple's iWork.** Dane will be providing a walkthru of iWork today.

**OpenOffice** is a free, open source version of the Office suite. It's not as pretty as Microsoft's offering, but it gets the job done.

<http://porting.openoffice.org/mac/download/aqua.html>

**NeoOffice** is an alternate version of OpenOffice.

<http://www.neooffice.org/neojava/en/download.php>

## **Bar Exam Certification**

There is no deadline for certifying your laptop. The laptop certification process will be made available to you on the date indicated. You are advised to complete the process as soon as possible so if you encounter problems, ExamSoft will have the opportunity to assist you in resolving them prior to the examination. If your laptop or SofTest is not operational when the examination begins, you will have to handwrite your examination answers.

### **State Bar of California**

<https://www.examsoft.com/calbar>

Laptop applicants who applied for the July 2008 California Bar Examination before April 14, 2008 can log in and begin the certification process on April 14, 2008, after 12:00 pm (Pacific Daylight Savings Time) or later. Those applying after April 14, 2008 must wait 7 days after they submit their application before they can log in. After reading the notes listed below, click the 'Exam Takers' tab and log in.

**Note 1:** You can complete the laptop certification process only ONCE. Please make sure that the laptop you are using to complete this process is the one you will be using for the examination.

**Note 2:** You can complete the laptop certification process only after your California State Bar Registration application has been approved and a California Bar Examination application has been submitted to the State Bar of California.

**Note 3:** Even if you have downloaded SofTest for a previous Bar Examination, you must log in, download and register SofTest again. Click the "Exam Takers" tab at the bottom of this page, then log in with your Applicant ID and Password. Please use your File # as your Applicant ID and as your Password.

**Note 4:** Installing SofTest and successfully certifying your computer means that you are ELIGIBLE to use your laptop for the California Bar Examination under the guidelines set forth by the State Bar's Office of Admissions. It does not guarantee you assignment to a laptop test center. The State Bar's Office of Admissions will make the final determination, and those applicants assigned to laptop test centers will be notified in writing.

## Software Pricing

<p><b>(1) Windows XP Pro (Upgrade*)</b></p> <p>(a) USF Bookstore Website (1 install):  <a href="http://www.journeyed.com/itemDetail.asp?itmNo=86781473LARS">http://www.journeyed.com/itemDetail.asp?itmNo=86781473LARS</a></p>	<p><b>(1) XP</b></p> <p>(a) \$79.98</p>
<p><b>(2) Windows Vista (Upgrades*)</b></p> <p>(a) Ultimate (Upgrade*) - USF Bookstore Website (1 install):  <a href="http://www.journeyed.com/itemDetail.asp?itmNo=87141473LARS">http://www.journeyed.com/itemDetail.asp?itmNo=87141473LARS</a></p> <p>(b) Business (Upgrade*) – USF Bookstore Website (1 install):  <a href="http://www.journeyed.com/itemDetail.asp?itmNo=86981473LARS">http://www.journeyed.com/itemDetail.asp?itmNo=86981473LARS</a></p>	<p><b>(2) Vista</b></p> <p>(a) \$99.98</p> <p>(b) \$79.98</p>
<p><b>(3) Office for Windows:</b></p> <p>(a) Ben Leung found a downloadable install version of Office for Windows. By far the best price I've seen so far. This is legit offer from Microsoft, good until <b>4/30/08</b>:  <a href="http://www.theultimatesteal.com/store/msshush/ContentTheme/pbPage.microsoft_office_ultimate?SID=603663-2-0-ARTICLE-0">http://www.theultimatesteal.com/store/msshush/ContentTheme/pbPage.microsoft_office_ultimate?SID=603663-2-0-ARTICLE-0</a></p> <p>(b) Pro Plus - USF Bookstore Website (1 install):  <a href="http://www.journeyed.com/itemDetail.asp?itmNo=87001473LARS">http://www.journeyed.com/itemDetail.asp?itmNo=87001473LARS</a></p> <p>(c) Office Standard – USF Bookstore Website (1 install):  <a href="http://www.journeyed.com/itemDetail.asp?itmNo=87011473LARS">http://www.journeyed.com/itemDetail.asp?itmNo=87011473LARS</a></p> <p>(d) USF Bookstore (3 user license)</p>	<p><b>(3) Office (Win)</b></p> <p>(a) \$59.95</p> <p>(b) \$84.98</p> <p>(c) \$74.98</p> <p>(d) \$149.00</p>
<p><b>(4) Office for OS X</b></p> <p>(a) USF Bookstore Website:  <a href="http://www.journeyed.com/itemDetail.asp?itmNo=87181471LARS">http://www.journeyed.com/itemDetail.asp?itmNo=87181471LARS</a></p>	<p><b>(4) Office (OS X)</b></p> <p>(a) \$74.98</p>
<p><b>(5) Other (USF Bookstore)</b></p> <p>(a) OS X Leopard</p> <p>(b) iWork '08</p> <p>(c) VMWare Fusion</p> <p>(d) Parallels</p> <p>(e) Aperture 2</p>	<p><b>(5) Other</b></p> <p>(a) \$69.00</p> <p>(b) \$39.00</p> <p>(c) \$39.00</p> <p>(d) \$69.00</p> <p>(e) \$69.00</p>
<p><b>*Upgrade</b> usually requires you having an earlier version of Windows. Ask your friends - they may have an old Windows 95 disk lying around.</p>	

## Which laptop should I buy? (Email Correspondence)

### Question:

I went to the USF bookstore and I was wondering if you can tell me if this is a good deal or not:

Macbook, 13inch: 2.2Ghz Black, Intel Core 2 Duo, 1GB memory, 160GB hard drive, 8x Super drive (what is this???) for \$1099. It comes with a canonMP210 printer as well for free.

I checked out the Apple Store to compare, and with the education discount a more updated Macbook, black is going for \$1399. It has 2.4GHZ, 2GB memory, 250 GB hard drive, and double-layer Superdrive.

### Answer:

Both Macs are a good deal. I'd say that if cash is the primary concern, the bookstore deal is solid. I think you can also get a free, cheap printer from Apple, too, with the purchase of a new laptop.\*

A key reason for the differences between the prices of the laptops is based on the fact that the one via the Apple Store was released only a few weeks ago, while the model at the USF Bookstore is a little older. You know... new releases are always a little bigger/faster, so Apple can keep their sales price point at the same spot over time.

Another option, if price is the key issue, is to check the Apple Store (online) to see if they have any refurbished models available. They refresh their store inventory every few days, so if they don't have anything today, try again later, usually in the morning, and you might find a less expensive option.

**Processor speed:** More or less the same. Call that equal.

**Hard Drive Space:** If you plan on keeping lots of TV shows, video and/or audio ON your laptop, the extra 90 gigs might matter to you. I've maxed out the 80 GB on my laptop's drive because I have lots of music, but can easily transfer stuff I'm not using to an external drive (and external drives are getting really cheap - 1TB = \$275). Call this about even.

**RAM:** The extra GB of RAM will make the newer laptop feel more zippy. It's noticeable. That said, extra RAM is pretty cheap. At my last pre-law job, an Apple sales rep suggested saving money by buying extra RAM from crucial.com -- he said it was the same RAM. Call this even.

<http://crucial.com/store/listparts.aspx?model=MacBook%202.2GHz%20Intel%20Core%20%20Duo%20%2813-inch%20Black%29%20MB063LL/B>

**Superdrives:** These just have that name because they can read and burn CDs and DVDs.

Here's the definition of **dual-layer**: [http://webopedia.com/TERM/D/dual\\_layer.html](http://webopedia.com/TERM/D/dual_layer.html)

Last I read, though, dual-layer discs cost about 4 to 5 times as much as a blank single-layer DVD. If you're not going to be burning movies, big files, or doing backups via DVD, I'd say that the dual-layer might be overkill, at least for the next year or two.

**Overall:** So, I guess I'm surprising myself by maybe suggesting the older, less expensive model. Crazy. Let me know what you decide, and enjoy whatever you wind up buying.

\* Either way, I'd actually recommend selling the free printer on eBay and getting a black and white laser printer instead -- it'll be faster, quieter, and save you tons of money on ink. I had the older version of this printer for years and loved it. \$50 after rebate:

<http://dealnews.com/Samsung-ML-2510-Laser-Printer-for-50-after-rebate-free-shipping/217198.html>