

# New Mexico Supreme Court Assessment of Bar Licensure and Rural Access



## GOALS:

- 1 Assess whether the current bar examination process tests for minimum competence to practice law.
- 2 Consider if innovations to the bar licensure process are viable for New Mexico, and if so, in which form.
- 3 Consider whether a licensure process that acts as an optional alternative to the bar exam is warranted.

### States that Have Implemented Innovative Pathways:

Arizona  
Nevada  
New Hampshire  
Oregon  
Utah  
Wisconsin

### States Considering Innovative Pathways:

California  
Delaware  
Indiana  
Minnesota  
New Mexico  
Washington

## Innovative Pathways



**Diploma Privilege:** a method for lawyers to be admitted to the bar (i.e. authorized to practice law) without taking a bar examination.



**Curricular Based Pathways:** Law students complete a rigorous program of experiential and doctrinal classes and submit a portfolio of their work to the Board of Bar Examiners.



**Supervised Practice:** Pre- and Post graduation options allowing a law student to practice under a licensed attorney for a set period of time to gain real-world experience.



**Combination or Hybrid:** Combining both curricular based and supervised practice elements during, and post, law school.



**Staged Testing:** Allowing law students to test for different written portions of the bar exam, such as the MBE, during law school.