

Female: Welcome to The Extra Mile Podcast for Bar Exam Takers. There are no traffic jams along the extra mile when you are studying for your bar exam, and now your host Jackson Mumey, owner of the Celebration Bar Review.

Jackson Mumey: Hey everybody? Welcome to Episode 43 of The Extra Mile Podcast. My name is Jackson Mumey, I am your host and I so glad you are with us and taken some time out of your day to find out more about what's going on in the bar exam. As I am recording ... well actually as this episode is releasing, California results will have come out, and so we'll be talking about those in an upcoming episode and kind of updating you on what the overall look of the [Draw 00:00:48] 2015 exam results were, since California represented the last of the major jurisdictions to report their results.

In today's episode I am actually going to be looking at another jurisdiction, which was Georgia, and I have got a really interesting interview for you with one of our students who passed the Georgia exam in July 2015. What makes Anna's story so interesting is that she is a foreign trained attorney, and as you may be aware Georgia started allowing foreign trained attorneys with LLM degrees to sit for their exam in 2015, and Anna was one of the very first people to go through that process, and she passed the bar in her first try, and for a foreign trained attorney to pass an exam like Georgia was really an amazing accomplishment.

In today's interview, we are going to be talking with Anna Sokol who was an attorney from Poland, went to law school at John Marshall for her LLM and then took and passed the Georgia Bar in her first try. I think you are going to really find her story fascinating, the things that she did to study, the advice that she's got for bar takers, whether they are foreign trained attorneys or just American law students taking their exam. She overcame a really tough exam that had a very low pass rate overall, and certainly for foreign trained attorneys have exceedingly low pass rate, and the way that she did that as a working attorney, a mom, and somebody for whom English was not her first language is really remarkable, and I love talking to Anna, and I think you are going to really enjoy this discussion.

We'll jump into that conversation in just a moment and I invite you to stick around for that, whether you took the Georgia Bar or you are taking the Georgia Bar or not, she has got a lot of great advice about how to study and what to do and how to organize and kind of structure your time that I think a lot of you will find invaluable, and if you are a foreign trained attorney, you are definitely going to want to listen to that, if you are taking New York or California, Texas or now Georgia. I also want to invite you to join us on Thursdays for our live master class called How to Make the Next Bar Exam. The Last Bar Exam You Take.

I won't be offering that on Thanksgiving Day, but I will be back next Thursday at 3 pm Eastern to give this 90 minute live class and it's free, but you do need to register, and to register you are going to want to go to our website, its celebrationbarreview.com/webinar to register and grab your seat, or you can text message us at 33444, by texting the phrase, all one word "nextbarexam" so next bar exam to 33444, register and grab your seat, it's a 90 minute class, we are going to show you the four steps that you need to take to pass the bar.

The reaction to this live master class has been really terrific, and I think you are going to find it a useful time with us to talk, there is a lot of interaction, so we keep the course size pretty small, so don't miss out, make sure you grab your seat, and join us for that. I also want to invite you if you are not a subscriber to our podcast to do so. We broadcast or podcast twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays, and you can subscribe on iTunes or by going to our website at celebrationbarreview.com, and then click on the link for podcasts. On that link you will also find all of our past episodes and show notes, and definitely invite you to check out those episodes and see what's going on. I want to jump into our conversation with Anna, it was great time talking with her, and I think you are going to really find it useful, so let's get into today's discussion with a passing Georgia Bar taker, Anna Sokol.

Well, hey everybody, welcome to hanging out with successful bar exam students. This is Lucky Episode 13, because we have ... not someone who is lucky, but someone who is incredibly successful, and you notice there is light shining down the middle of my face. I think it's because there is an angel with me today. This is really one of my very favorite people from the last set of bar exams. She is somebody who has accomplished an extraordinary thing, and when you hear her story today, I think you are going to be blown away by the accomplishment and what she's done and she pulled it all together, under what I think were some pretty significant odds.

I want to let you get in and hear from her, so I want to introduce to you Anna Sokol who is a passing Georgia Bar taker, but also a foreign trained attorney who passed the Georgia Bar under the new rules which we are going to talk about today. Welcome to the broadcast Anna, great to have you with us.

Anna Sokol: Thank you for having me. I like to chat with you.

Jackson Mumey: Yeah, yeah you and I did...

Anna Sokol: Have many chats under different circumstances.

Jackson Mumey: Yeah, you and I did a lot of video chats, didn't we?

Anna Sokol: Yes we did.

Jackson Mumej: Why don't we start by first you telling our audience a little about your background and what led you to the point of taking the bar exam.

Anna Sokol: I am originally from Poland and I completed all my legal education over there, with combination of one year that I spent at the German university. I moved to the States in 2005. I came for internship program that I thought will last one year, and here I am here like 10 years later. What kept me initially in States was that I was offered a job with a immigration law firm here in Atlanta, and I was initially working as a law clerk because all my legal education unfortunately from Europe was not ... I couldn't get any credit for that because it wasn't a common law system.

I always had in mind that I would like to probably do a little bit more than being just a law clerk, but then at the same time I wasn't sure how long I will stay here, I was still debating whether to go back, and it was also hard to find a program in Georgia that would allow me to work fulltime, and I did not necessarily want to go and complete again three or four years of law school after already doing five years of that in Europe, that would be too much. When finally the opportunity came and Atlanta's John Marshall Law School opened the LLM program that was a little bit more flexible, that allowed me to work and study in the evening, I just decided to take that opportunity. It was a little bit hard because my son was eight months at that point when I started, but I am so happy I did that. I really did not...

Jackson Mumej: Let me interrupt for one second just to say in case you missed that because she said it really quickly, she is foreign trained, she is going to school at night, she is working fulltime today, and she's got an eight month old son, other than that no challenges whatsoever. Okay Anna, go ahead, now your modesty kind of blows me away there. Okay go ahead.

Anna Sokol: No, I said it was hard, yeah it was the worst year of my life to be honest, so yes. At that point I already ... I had been working at the law firm here in States for ... since 2006, so at that point I just wanted ... I always wanted to practice, that's why I completed my legal education in Europe, and I could practice over there, just the longer I stayed here, more it felt like home, I love my job, and then my son was born here, so it just became more difficult to like move again and start everything all over again. When I completed that LLM program actually Georgia did not even have an option of allowing foreign trained attorneys taking the bar, so I was doing the program thinking I would be doing that in New York.

Jackson Mumej: Actually, that's when you first contacted me; we thought you were to go to New York Bar.

Anna Sokol: Yeah, and I actually after I graduated I submitted all my documents to New York which also was challenging because they required tons of documents including like letters from ministry of justice, ministry of education in Poland, had to send it directly to New York, it was like a nightmare. My mom really passed the test

because she was the one trying to get all those documents for me, so ... and it took New York, I think it took them nine or ten months to evaluate all my documentation and then they finally accepted me and said I can take the New York Bar. That message came around the same time that Georgia actually decided to change regulations and allowed foreign trained attorneys to take the bar here, if they have the LLM program that meets the requirements, and that's when I contacted you.

Jackson Mumeey: Yeah.

Anna Sokol: I had already signed up for the program and I think it was like in May, and I just in July I found out that there was a board meeting that decided that, "Yes, Georgia changed regulations, but it will only allow foreign trained attorneys to take the bar who completed LLM program either that year or in the future." I completed year before, so that was only when I wasn't able to do it, but I was at that point, I was like, you know what? Whatever, its so many things that weren't necessary you know easy, so I decided to apply for a waiver, for education waiver in Georgia and I applied for that, I had to wait the February bar because the board meeting was after the deadline to file all the applications and all that, but then finally I got answered, that they approved my waiver and I was able to take July bar exam.

Jackson Mumeey: Let me back up for just one second just to help our audience here. The Georgia rules changed to allow foreign trained attorneys as Anna said with the completion of an LLM in an American law school to sit for the Georgia Bar, this is a relatively new thing and actually Anna was among the very first people in that program to be able to do that, but just to give you perspective I've been talking to Anna because I think you've been referred to me by your boss, who had been a former bar student of mine, and I think we've been talking or working for almost two years before you finally got to a point where you were actually going to be able to take a bar exam. This was not an overnight decide and do it kind of situation, so pretty tenacious and persevering already into the process before you ever opened a book right? So...

Anna Sokol: Yes, I think we initially contacted around April 2014 or something like that, yes it was a bumpy road for me, but it was worth it, I just ... I worked in an immigration law firm, so the license from New York not necessarily wouldn't prohibit me from practicing immigration law, but occasionally we have meet ... to appear in like local state courts for clients and then that would be really very limiting for me to not to be able to do that, so...

Jackson Mumeey: Okay so now you get ready and you start aiming for the July 2015 Georgia Bar Exam and you had to take the full exam, you are not entitled as a foreign trained attorney to just sit for the attorneys exam, so we are talking multi-state in Georgia just like a regular law student. Well ... and you got a baby and you are working, I mean oh my gosh, and you are foreign trained initially, so what's the process like of studying for the bar, you want to just share a little bit about that.

Anna Sokol: In April they need to keep me because after my experience with going for LLM program during that one year, it was just so hard, honestly I had some health problems afterwards, it was just too much, so I had this conversation with my boss who is actually the best ever, boss so I'm a lucky person here, but I did take time off from work, I just did not want to do the studying and I didn't want it to affect my family and my son, mostly my son because at this point he's almost four, so when I was studying he is like three and a half ... it was just hard because he wouldn't understand, we used to do everything together and then I couldn't do.

Jackson Mumey: Yeah he was part of some of our conversations as I recall.

Anna Sokol: Yes.

Jackson Mumey: He was on mamas lap, yeah.

Anna Sokol: His daddy became a little bit of mommy, so when ... I had also help from my mom a little bit, which was nice, but so .. what I decided after having a conversation with my boss is to take time to just concentrate on studying at least for those two and a half months just concentrate on that. I started early ... with me being always realistic because I know what it can be like especially with a little one at home like he can get sick, I never know if I will have the [inaudible 00:14:02] if I'll need it that time, so I wanted to start early and so I believe around the beginning of May I started slowly kind of getting him to ... the habit of doing assignments, and going through the material, reading. It was a little bit slower at the beginning. I just had to find my pace and I kind of figure out what I'm doing, but that helped me because I did have some bumps especially at the end of the studying period because I think two weeks before exam, my son got very sick with fever of 105, and I was way for like five days and then he recovered, I go sick, that was week before exam, so I couldn't talk, I had like fever, I was stressed, I was like whatever, just whatever happens.

Jackson Mumey: I recall that conversation you looked like you just want it over, yeah it was bad.

Anna Sokol: Thanks to the fact that I started early at least I wasn't freaking out as much because at that point maybe my practice, practicing essays, may be a little more MBEs, that stuff hurt a little bit, but at least I was done the substantive material, so I was a little bit more ... I just was able to take those two or three days off and I was like I have to recover, I cannot study, and that helped me the fact that I started early.

Jackson Mumey: You would recommend that people begin...

Anna Sokol: I think that in my specific situation where I knew that I'm a foreign trained attorney, so English is not my first language then also the fact that in the LLM program I did not complete all the subjects that are tested on the bar I just didn't feel ... I felt that I need a little bit more time than may be an average

American student, so that the subjects I never covered and had no idea like evidence or criminal law, I never had in LLM program, criminal procedure so it was helpful to me to just get more familiar, I had to spend a little bit more time on the subjects that I never had any ... I had never worked with, so that helped me definitely.

I am that type of person that can really ... I heard stories from friends or people who are attorneys or law students or are preparing for the bar, that they studied like 13 hours a day and without that your are not able to pass, and so I want to spend three months like committing 13 hours a day including weekends to study, I am not a machine I cannot do that I don't think it would be productive to me, so for me really the idea was to study mostly when my son was in preschool but that would usually be like from maybe start around nine and then study until may be five with a break of course like lunch break and shorter breaks in between, and then when he went to bed in the evening maybe like I would do like an additional two hours of either trying to go over what I did that day or listening a little bit to maybe like some of the recording and lectures that I just wanted to like make some additional notes or ... I think that helped me a lot, that I wasn't really committing all day like 13 hours because I don't think would be productive at all.

Jackson Mumey: Yeah you were following our study guide, right? you were going through the assignments?

Anna Sokol: Yes, I was following it to like, I wouldn't skip one thing, I was just ... I took your advice which I am very happy. I did not listen to any outside advice like, oh no take my notes, take my outlines or you should do this, you shouldn't be ... I was like you know what? If I do it I have to trust someone on it, and it just was easier because the materials, it's just so much things, so many outlines to read, so many lectures, so many practice tests in essence, that if I wanted to do three different things I don't think it would be productive at all. I concentrated on what you gave me, I didn't look into outside materials at all and I just did that, and it worked.

Jackson Mumey: Yeah and I think it's worth noting, that one of the things that Anna did is that she kind of put blinders on, and she just said, "Look whatever you are going to tell me to do I'm going to do that, I am going to do it as well as I can do it, I'll keep getting better at it, I'm not going to get distracted." I think for a lot of you who are listening or watching, this is one of the big challenges you'd face particularly if you are a foreign trained attorney because there is a lot of chatter out there, about what should do right? Anna you experience it, there are a lot of people telling you, "Oh do this, do that." Where maybe it wasn't the best thing to be doing, and so you had to kind of zone in and say this is what I am going to do.

Anna Sokol: Yes, exactly and that worked for me very well and I'm happy because I don't think ... and just I was following, because as long as I knew I am following the

schedule at least I felt that I'm doing ... I'm following some kind of pattern that you ... you did that, you did so many times with so many people and it worked before for others, I was like I don't see why it can't work for me, so I just followed it, yes, so....

Jackson Mumeey: Yeah, I actually think I can trace the line of people that have referred me into you back to like maybe six or seven generations, it's really funny. Almost it came to me through a personal referral. One of the things that happened in our preparations is that you were in the personal mentoring course which meant that we were conferencing about your writing. I'd like you to talk a little bit about that process and what that was like maybe early on for you and then later as you got a little more proficient at it.

Anna Sokol: Yes, I always liked writing so I wasn't going into this experience like with complete fear, but then I didn't necessarily when I was doing the LLM program, the school was doing the IRAC pattern of writing and I did not feel ... it just did not feel natural to me, it was very mechanical ... a very mechanical process for over there, so I did not like that format of writing so when you introduced me actually to that ... to your style of writing, it really like right away it felt very natural to me and it seems to me like, oh my God, it's so much easier and makes so much more sense. Initially it was hard for me to ... I think the very first essay I wrote was like, I had very really comments from you but then like sometimes like keeping those three paragraphs it was confusing, I was like, "Do I always keep that format or how do I do it?" I think we had that one video chat that was pretty harsh so I had to go back, I was like, I was like I don't think I will write anything for maybe two days and then, but at the end I was like I have to do it so have to make it better so...

Jackson Mumeey: Yeah I'm kind of notorious for that one conversation. We call it come to the Jackson meeting where it's like yeah, this is how you're going to write, so ... but you survived that and then went on, and I think probably you and I talked, I don't know maybe 15 or 20 times about your writing, so what was the value to you of doing those writing conferences?

Anna Sokol: Well, it was very helpful, like also the ... I think at the end, at the actual even exam when I look back, what was helpful that you are very ... also taught me not to freak out if you see the question that you may not necessarily know the rule of law right away or you're not sure, you just really try to think, don't freak out, read the question again and use the facts to help you and then try to make arguments, what makes more sense, what's logical, what is reasonable and so, I remember I had that in mind so there were two questions on the essay part that were ... that I think were a little bit tricky because they didn't necessarily ask you for the rule of law, I think they were really asking what you as the practicing attorney would do that would make more sense for your client?

I think that really helped me, so that was very helpful to me just kind of teaching me not to freak out, to always like be able to use the facts to figure out really

what is the rule, and then sometimes like once you start that thinking process and analyze those facts all of a sudden you remember, "Oh that's write I wrote something about this before." Then all of a sudden everything comes like a puzzle together, so that was really very helpful to me during the exam. Those two questions definitely were required sometime. I was also really trying to figure out really what the question is, what they're asking me here.

Jackson Mumeey: Yeah, that's good, you know another part of the Georgia exam for those who either don't know is the Multistate Performance Test and this is the same test that's given in New York and Texas, the uniform bar exams jurisdictions and for foreign trained attorneys the MPTs as its called is very difficult often times particularly if English isn't your first language and if you haven't seen a lot of these forms of writing. Can you talk a little about what the MPT was like for you?

Anna Sokol: Yes, and initially I was a little bit of scared, I don't think I've done ... I think my ... the time when my son was sick and I was sick, kind of affected my studying for that, but I figured that if I don't have enough time to practice essays, I would rather practice essays than maybe MPTs a little bit more, so I was a little bit anxious going into the exam, but actually ... maybe my experience also from working in a law firm helped me a little bit too because I'm used to like form a letter, so one might probably helped a little bit, but then I also liked, because I did really like a couple of practices MPTs that you offered in your program and that's all I did and I think that that was enough really to kind of know what to look also in the MPTs like to make sure to keep some format, to keep it like formal and I felt pretty good after the MPTs on the exam. I was confident they went okay so it wasn't that difficult.

As long as you know like what format to keep either if its a pure brief or whether it's like memorandum or a letter to the client I think it just helped me because I had those formats in mind and then once I saw an exam I was like okay this is the format, that's what it is, I have to advise the client for example what to do and then it was just following ... and also like making it clear for the ... someone who will be reading that, so like it had proper paragraphs and I try to do some captions and like no titles, so like breakdown so that its not like three pages of just random text or like what is the second question we ask over ... so that really helped me also for you because I also kept in mind that when you were saying that you have to understand that people who are reading that, they really read it quickly, they are looking for like some keywords or making sure that everything is there, so making it also easy to read for the readers is really important too, so I tried to keep that in mind also.

Jackson Mumeey: Yeah, I thought you did a terrific job in practice of demonstrating that writing style all the way through. You come to the bar exam in Atlanta, right?

Anna Sokol: Yeah.

Jackson Mumeey: Crazy experience of being in the bar exam, you know, just talk a little bit about what that was like to be there for the actual days of testing?

Anna Sokol: Well yes, and it was crazy experience because there was so many, I think there were like 1300-1400 people taking the bar in Georgia, and it was like in this huge it looked like an airport hangar really. It was like a huge room and it was freezing inside, I knew to like dress up and I thought like it was the end of July, so I thought I was dressed properly but when I saw people in boots and space jackets I was like I knew they were not taking that exam for the first time.

Jackson Mumeey: There you go. That's how you know people are retaking.

Anna Sokol: Yes, because if I had to repeat I would have really probably my winter jacket there. It was really cold.

Jackson Mumeey: Yeah.

Anna Sokol: I usually I am sometimes like stressed out before, but usually once I go into the exam room, I was like there's nothing at this point I have no control over it other than just trying to concentrate and do my best, so I usually once I start writing or like doing stuff I kind of like almost I just follow the questions and try to ... and the time goes so quickly in that exam room, you're sometimes thinking, "Oh my God three hours in there." Because Georgia I don't know how it looks somewhere else, but the first day it's three hours morning session, three hours afternoon session and second day same thing, but time goes by so quickly that even you don't even feel like you've been there for such a long time.

Jackson Mumeey: Yes, absolutely.

Anna Sokol: It's not like its really little time, I had....

Jackson Mumeey: Yeah, I thought you did a wonderful job of maintaining your composure, with you getting sick and your son getting sick right at the end, and all of the challenges that were there, you still ... you knew you were on track, you knew you'd been doing the right work, you've done the practice test with us, the essays, the MPTs, the MBEs and you were really ready to go. I thought that when you got into the exam my sense was, "Hey this is going to be somebody who can probably just rise to the occasion and kind of get through it." You did all that, and then I don't know 10 days ago or so was results day. Tell me about that, what was that like?

Anna Sokol: It was great, honestly because last year I think Georgia released results on like a day before Halloween?

Jackson Mumeey: That's right. The Halloween massacre, yes.

Anna Sokol: Yes, yes. I thought it would be the same this year, but then few weeks before Georgia Bar Admission Office sent the message that they are actually releasing the results a week earlier, and I didn't tell anyone, my office knew because they are in the legal field, so they know, but my family didn't know because I didn't want them to be asking me all the time are you okay, how are you feeling? I just ... yes so I didn't tell them that the results were going to be a week earlier and that was also easier for me because I wanted to also have that moment for myself and whatever the result was just process it and then share with my family, but yeah the feeling was great, I did have to ask my coworker to check if I really was just imagining my name on that list or if it was really my name, so yes.

The nice thing with my boss actually that moment I found out he came to my office like literally two minutes later and he's like, "Here it's for you." and I'm looking at it and it's like a box of new business cards already, he's like, "I know you would probably have killed me if I showed it to you like a week before, but now I can give it to you."

Jackson Mumey: That's great, that's terrific yeah, how wonderful, how wonderful. I just want to put this in perspective again for our audience. The Georgia Bar exam results came out and they were atrocious. They were awful, just like we are seeing all around the country; the overall pass rate was very low. I think ... and I am doing this off the top of my head, so I'll check it on the show notes if I'm wrong, but I think it was in the 65 percentile rate, does that sound about right to you Anna?

Anna Sokol: Yeah I think 63 or 64 yes.

Jackson Mumey: Yeah it was very low. And for the foreign trained attorneys, which were not a large number, to be sure the rates look even lower, way, way lower like 25%, and so ... here you are, you have beaten the odds on every possible level. I say an angel, you really are. What advice would you give to people who are thinking about the Georgia bar exam, whether they are foreign trained attorneys or just studied in America? What advice would you offer to them?

Anna Sokol: Well, first of all I think ... obviously I kept in mind that I'm a foreign trained attorney and it will be more difficult for me because of several aspects like not covering everything in the LLM program. It's not that you went through the whole law school here, and also English not being my native first language, but at the same time I don't think you have to go into this process like with this in mind. All you need is really to like realize that you may need a little bit more time to catch up with the program and with what for others may be a little easier. At the same time I think you just have to be optimistic and say ... I kept telling myself like I can do it, I completed that LLM program with so many difficulties so ... on the way.

I never had it in my mind that just because I'm foreign trained attorney I cannot do it. I tried to use it to my advantage kind of mentally and be okay. It's like

almost feeling less pressure on myself because I said to myself, okay if it doesn't happen the first time, obviously a lot of American students who are ... got and have good grades they sometimes don't pass, so if I don't pass I will be probably less harsh on myself, so probably not but at least it would be probably ... maybe others would like think oh..

Jackson Mumey: Yeah you had a lot of classmates who didn't pass, right?

Anna Sokol: Probably ... I knew only few people just because I was taken there just because of that waiver that I had to do. I didn't know that many people really, just a couple of them, but...

Jackson Mumey: I definitely say that because I have heard from a fair number of people who are in the LLM program or just finished it who actually you referred to us for the course; some were repeat takers who did not pass. That's why I'm saying that.

Anna Sokol: Yes, yes that's what the school also told me, and the school actually was even asking me about the program I took, and so they realized that something is not working with those big bar review courses.

Jackson Mumey: Yeah and I have been talking about this in other places, Anna. I think this is like the old proverb or the old story of the Emperor Has New Clothes. As the bar pass rates are falling; I think it's becoming more obvious that the big bar review courses just are not doing the job here. That bright talented people who are putting in lots of work aren't being successful, they are just not learning the skills that they need, whether it's still writing in IRAC form instead of ... as you said more the style of what an attorney in practice would do. Just getting the feedback, the feedback was important I gather for you, the conferences and then you kept coming back for more. Would you recommend that kind of a program, a personal mentored course for somebody as compared to just studying on their own?

Anna Sokol: Definitely yes, definitely, because that's what I think helped me the most, because obviously, you read the material, you can listen to lectures, but you need that personal feedback, especially my situation I needed that because I had questions, I wasn't sure always about the format or ... it really helped me a lot.. I did need that definitely and feel it's helped me. Other advice would be really to, like what I did, is just trust one person and just trust that with your program, like what you are doing, you know what you are doing, and that's really ... I think that like left me with all that anxiety, oh my God, I'm I doing the right thing? I just concentrated on studying and then following the program, so I wasn't like second guessing like if you're ... are your methods working or not.

I just blindly trusted you and followed everything that you told me to do. I think that's what you need to do because that takes so much out of your mind like ... off your mind to just concentrate on that aspect of okay, I have to read, I have to listen to lectures, I have to understand it and I have to practice, and that was

really helpful to me that I did not have to worry, that I kind of tried to block that out, that influence and be like, okay I'm not listening to... because there are so many people who took bar exam that I knew even from work or ... and everybody would have a little bit different idea of what should work or what worked for them, and they would ... most of the time they would freak you out. Except for one of my coworker who was great who was really kind of on the same page, like don't drive yourself crazy, take some time off and she's like, you can do it.

The only few times that I tried to do something, there were days obviously where either I wasn't feeling great or just my level of concentration wasn't good like something was off that day, I was like, I don't know how to study, but at least I tried to do something that would be easier than if I couldn't like go for the whole lectures and maybe I would go back and do a couple of practice questions because it was easier for me without having to like concentrate that much just like do some practice. I tried to do like ... even if it was slowly checking out the assignments; it felt so good when I put that checkmark there.

Jackson Mumey: Absolutely, Absolutely.

Anna Sokol: I think that was always helpful to me, so...

Jackson Mumey: Good. I think that you are a good example Anna of when I talk about sort of the investments that people have to make and the expectations that you recognized, you were teachable and you were willing to make the investment of time and the investment of money for your studies. I think by making those investments, by being open to those things and following that advice then you got the result that you wanted which was to pass in the first time around, and certainly, beating the statistical odds. I'm so thrilled that you have joined us today and I really appreciate you sharing the story, I know you are going to be enormously successful because you have been already. I think it's going to be very inspiring and very encouraging for people to hear your story and what you've accomplished. Do you have anything else that you want to just share before we finish up here today? If you were talking to someone who is thinking about should I take the exam or not? What advice would you give them?

Anna Sokol: Sign up for Jackson's program and then you will be fine.

Jackson Mumey: Well, I can't say it any better than that, folks I didn't set her up for that I promise.

Anna Sokol: Its really true because I was referred to you by my boss who did that exam like long time ago and he also ... he was in the FBI for most of his career so when he retired, like he was out of law school for 20 or 30 years, so for him it wasn't ... he says it was an easy experience and he really highly recommended, like he did want to honestly give me a chance; he just like went to the website, signed me up, called you and said okay, that's what you are doing. I said okay.

Jackson Mumey: Yeah, very well.

Anna Sokol: I'm very thankful to him for that and to you for guiding me through that process. I think that's really like ... and being a foreign trained attorney I really think that you really have to go into that like believing that you can do it because otherwise I don't think ... even if you are not a foreign trained attorney, if you start the process the process like, "Oh my God I don't think I can pass." I think it's just ... with that mental state it's just hard to probably ... first go for the whole process and then believe that you can pass. Actually I liked your motivational messages. They were ... I like especially one day before bar exam where you said that, "God has a plan for you and it may not mean that He will pass on the first house." I was like, "Okay."

Jackson Mumey: That's an important message, yeah.

Anna Sokol: It's actually nice, yes, that's actually a nice message. Follow the program and do your work, obviously nothing [inaudible 00:39:25] so its a lot of work but it's worth it at the end, and it's such a nice feeling to be able to you know pass on the first time and not have that pressure later of like trying again and again.

Jackson Mumey: Yeah. Anna, I really appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedule between work and mom and family and everything else. I'm just delighted for your success and thrilled that we could be part of that, and I'm very appreciative that you would share your story with our audience today. Folks this is a really successful bar exam taker here that you are looking at. She did what most people couldn't do under difficult circumstances. I'm very, very proud of her and her accomplishments, and I think if you keep an eye on Anna she's going to be somebody to keep an eye on in the Georgia Bar, she's going to make a difference. Hey, we are delighted it was great to spend time and catch up with you, thanks again. For all of you who have been watching and listening we appreciate your time as always and look forward to the day when you might join me on one of these interviews, right? And have the opportunity to share your story of success. With that I am going to sign off and thanks again to our guest today, Anna Sokol. Bye, bye.

Anna Sokol: Bye.

Jackson Mumey: Well, that wraps up today's episode, thanks so much for listening. If you would like to be part of our Extra Mile for Bar Exam Takers private Facebook group, just check the show notes, you'll find a link in which you can request an invitation and we'll see you along the Extra Mile.

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