

Speaker 1: Welcome to the Extra Mile Podcast for bar exam takers. There are no traffic jams along the extra mile when you're studying for your bar exam. And now your host, Jackson Mumey, owner of the Celebration Bar Review.

Jackson Mumey: Well, hey, everybody, and welcome to episode 34 of the Extra Mile Podcast. This is Jackson. So glad that you're with us today. We're wrapping up our series on bar exam peace. Those were a couple of words that really didn't seem to go together, did they? The bar exam and peace just seem to be at odds with each other conceptually. In today's wrap up, I'm going to talk about how you come to peace by being teachable.

One of the things that really seems to stick in people is this notion of repeated failure, and then sort of a sense of intransigence around that. It's sort of like Dave Ramsey, I think, that talks about, when he's talking about people's financial behavior, and he says it's like, talking about like babies, it's warm and sticky, but it's mine. I think that in a sense, people start to own their failure and say, "This is just who I am and this is what it is, and I'm not going to change. I'll just keep doing the same thing and hope, pray, expect a miracle that will make it different." I believe in miracles, and I believe in prayer very much. But I think that sometimes that prayer has to be accompanied by action. The action sometimes is you've got to be teachable. In today's episode, I'm going to talk about what it means to be teachable, and why that can help bring you peace in the process of studying for the bar exam.

Speaking of peace, I know that many of you are still waiting for bar exam results. It's a time of really a lack of peace, perhaps. Just want to let you know that we're thinking about you, and lots of resources available for you when you get your results if they're not favorable. But even while you're waiting for your results. One of them is our special Facebook group for bar exam takers called The Extra Mile. In the show notes today you'll see a spot where you can request membership in that Facebook group. It's free. But really invite you to join us there. We have a group of past successful bar takers who've come into the group, and I come in a couple times a week and answer questions, and it's just a great place for support and ideas about things that are going on around the bar exam and how to study for it.

I also want to invite you to attend our weekly master class called how to make the next bar exam your last bar exam. This will be on Thursday at 3:00 p.m. Eastern, 12 o'clock Pacific Time. It's a live master class, runs about 90 minutes. I'll be sharing with you the 4 things that every bar taker has to do to pass the bar. These are the techniques and the proven steps that we see that make a difference between people who pass the bar exam and people who don't pass. It's totally free to join me on this master class. I do it live. To reserve your seat, you can text the phrase nextbarexam. That's all 1 word, nextbarexam, to 33444. So text nextbarexam to 33444. You can register that way. Or you can go to our

website at celebrationbarreview.com/webinar. That's celebrationbarreview.com/webinar, and reserve your seat there, and we'll see you Thursday, 3:00 p.m. live.

I hope that you're enjoying these podcast episodes. We'll start a new series in our next episode. But for now, if you have enjoyed these, or if maybe you've missed some of the prior episodes and want to catch up, you can do that a couple of different ways. You can go to iTunes and subscribe and also leave your rating and review. We'd love to have that feedback. Or you can go to our website at celebrationbarreview.com. Look for the word podcast at the time of the page. Click there. You'll find all of our past episodes, as well as the show notes. You can subscribe to the podcast episodes from that site as well.

Love to have you along with us for the Extra Mile. Glad that you're here. Good luck to those waiting on bar exam results. For those of you that have got your results in the past, that's great. You'll be hearing from some more successful bar takers in upcoming episodes of our podcast. We've got some great stories slated to share with you. If you did not pass your exam, and you're struggling, then I really want to encourage you to listen very carefully to today's discussion about bar exam peace. I think it'll make sense to you and resonate. Let's jump right into Bar Exam Peace and Being Teachable.

Hi, and welcome to Celebration Bar Review. We're doing a video series right now called Exam Peace. I would say, based on the number of hits, it's probably not one of my more successful series. But I don't think that's because the message isn't good. I think it's just something that people don't necessarily think about, or realize how important it is.

In today's message, I want to talk about something that I'm seeing an awful lot of right now that I think is important. It's this concept of being teachable. What do I mean by being teachable? Well, the bar results have come out from the previous exam, just finished up the last of the results season in the last couple of days. Typically following the results season, I get phone calls and emails from people that took other courses or studied on their own and didn't pass the bar exam. I'm please that our results continue to be strong and certainly far above average in every jurisdiction that we're operating in.

But it's no secret right now that the bar exams are getting more difficult. At least the grading's getting more difficult. It's getting tougher to pass the bar exam in virtually every jurisdiction, even some of the easy places historically, like New Jersey or Georgia, pretty tough these days. So there's a higher level of frustration about the bar exam in general. When you combine that with the generalized lack of employment opportunities that I think a lot of people are facing in the legal field today, with the greater stress and the sense of, "If I don't pass the bar, I'm going to lose the job I've already got," with the lack of mobility and opportunities to change and move from one state to the other. There is a higher level of frustration that generally goes with the bar exam.

I think a lot of that, for me, was catalyzed yesterday on a phone call I got from a prospective student who called, and interestingly enough, had been referred to me by an existing student, or a former student who had done well with us. This person called to say that they had failed the New York exam studying with another bar review, and that they wanted a course that would allow them to focus exclusively on parts of the multi-state and the New York multiple choice. If you're not familiar with the New York exam, what they were saying was, they were interested in a part of the exam that was worth 10% of the score, and then the multi-state, or not even all the multi-state, parts of the multi-state.

I tried to get some information from this person as to why they had that particular view. They told me rather irritated form of conversation that it was because they knew exactly what had to be done, that those were the areas that they hadn't been prepped for properly. It was easy to move your multi-state score, and it would be easy to move his New York multiple choice scores. I thought, "Huh? What are you talking about?" That's not the reality at all. In no world does spending all of your time on 10% of the score make much sense. The multi-state, by its very nature and definition, is tough to move a lot of points.

I asked the student, I said, "What was your score? Did you just miss?"

"Oh, I don't remember my score."

"You just took the exam. How do you not remember your score?"

Then we got to the real heart of it. I said to the individual, "I'm not sure that this is a good course for you, because frankly, I think that if I'm really going to teach you, I've got to be able to lead you, and it doesn't sound like you're teachable," with which this person basically erupted and proceeded to tell me that all bar reviews were thieves and crooks and ripoffs. That's not nice to hear. Then, before I could take personal offense at that, proceeded to tell me that his law school was also a ripoff, that they had stolen all of his money by virtue of the legal education he had gotten and its worthlessness, and that the bar exam was a ripoff. Everybody was out to get this person.

I really feel sorry for him, and I told him I wouldn't take him as a student. I thought that the inability to teach someone, to be teachable, really becomes such a huge barrier that when there's that much anger, when the anger, whether it's dispersed or it's focused, but here's someone who's mad at their law school. They're mad at the bar examiners. They were mad at the bar reviews. They were mad at the bar reviews they hadn't taken yet. They were mad at the entire legal industry. You may be feeling that way in various levels and at various amounts at different times. My point is not to beat up on this person. I really feel sorry for them. I think that this is somebody who is really angry and frustrated that they didn't pass the bar exam. They went to a good law school. They expected to pass and it didn't happen.

Part of the reason for that, I think, for most people, is simply that we don't know enough to get out of our own way. That's what I mean by being teachable. There's a certain amount of humility that you need to recognize that you may not know everything about every subject. I would like to tell you that in most areas of my life, I am pretty humble. I really do concede the ground and the knowledge to other people that know more than I do. But there are a few things in life in which I now think I'm pretty expert. One of them is how to pass a bar exam. When someone comes into contact with me, I have more expertise about this particular subject than they do, by definition.

Sort of like if I go to the auto mechanic. I love my car. I love to drive it. I love everything about it. But I don't understand how to fix it, and I don't understand the mechanics and the nuances, and I certainly don't understand the engineering that goes into it. So I concede to the mechanic that they know more about that than I do. But by the same token, I know more about passing the bar exam than my mechanic does. What I've learned over the years is that the best student, the student that works the hardest, that cares the most, that has the most intellect, but refuses to be teachable, is oftentimes the least successful student.

You see, sometimes we get it into our heads that because we were smart enough to get into law school, because we were smart enough to graduate from law school, smart enough to get a good legal job, smart enough to be successful in our careers, whatever they might be, that whenever it comes to something like a bar exam, that we can simply take all of those things and just overwhelm the test. We can just do what we've always done and we'll be successful. For some people, sometimes, that works. But for lots of people, particularly in this environment, it's not working. It requires a certain amount of humility to say, "You know what? I really don't know everything that there is to know about passing the bar. So, I'm willing to follow the teacher's guidance or advice."

I've been hearing from people over the last few weeks as well who've told me about all sorts of, sort of what I call "bar review in a box" kinds of programs that just have jumped out of nowhere. See, a lot of people that couldn't get law-related jobs took a bar exam and then said, "Hey, I can teach the bar." So there are an extraordinary, most I've ever seen in 20 years, of people who claim to be bar review providers these days. Some of them, I'm sure, are very good at providing information. Some of them we know for a fact have simply taken materials that didn't belong to them and repackaged them and put them out there. But none of them that I've seen so far can really lay claim to being good teachers. They might be good information discriminators. They might be great marketers. They might be great at the technology. But there's a difference between providing information and teaching. I think that ultimately that's what it comes down to.

When I looked at our course and our program, one of the things that we offer is a free 30-day entry into our course to have the materials. We do that because I

think it's a help to some people, and because it introduces them to the course and the approach. But it doesn't really include a lot of teaching. I see a big difference in the pass rates. Our students that take our course and receive teaching pass at much higher numbers than the people that just acquire our materials for a month and use them on their own, without any teaching. I think that that's a lot of what bar review is today. There's a lot of people out there providing information, or repackaged information, not even their own, but without any teaching. I think that this becomes important because to the extent that you need, as a student, to be teachable, you also need a teacher. You need someone who understands what the problem is and how to get you range of motion where you are to where you need to be.

It's not always easy. It's not always a straight line. It doesn't always come without some tears and some suffering and struggle, and maybe even some conflict along the way as you reorient yourself to what has to be done. That's what good teaching, however, is about. It's moving a student from where they are to where they need to be. I think that if you're not getting that kind of teaching, and if you're not teachable, you're in real danger on this test of not being successful.

So you think about exam peace, as we head into this next set of exams. I hope you'll consider that concept of whether or not you're teachable, and then whether or not you're really getting the teaching that you need. If you're interested in knowing more about that, I hope you'll contact us. Our toll-free number, 888-720-0010. Or you can contact us at celebrationbarreview.com.

Have a great day, and thanks again for watching this video in our series.

Well, that wraps up today's episode. Thanks so much for listening. If you'd 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. We'll see you along the extra mile.

Speaker 1:

Thanks for listening to the Extra Mile Podcast for Bar Exam Takers, at www.celebrationbarreview.com.