

## SYLLABUS – revised 9.22.2010

Course number:	C538
Course Name:	Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) Preparation
Units:	One unit
Instructor:	Bruce Mitteldorf Email: <a href="mailto:brumit@softcom.net">brumit@softcom.net</a> or phone #707-887-9542
Semester:	Fall, 2010
Time:	9/8/2010 and every other Wednesday thereafter, 6 – 8 p.m.
Required Text:	<i>Strategies &amp; Tactics for the MBE (Multistate Bar Exam)</i> [2010] by Kimm Walton and Steve Emanuel; Revised by Schonbrun, Emanuel, Rapoport, Wonsowicz and Hirschberg. Aspen/Emanuel Bar Review; ISBN 978-0-7355-7063-4
Optional:	Additional MBE texts or questions from other sources.
Course Description:	<p>Discussions and practice in preparation for taking the MBE portion of the California Bar Exam. Classes will be devoted to discussing strategies for successfully navigating MBE questions, analyzing sample questions and answers, and practice, practice, practice.</p> <p>The instructor is of the opinion that, when it comes to preparing for MBE questions, there are very few “tricks” of real value. Rather, students should (1) do many hundreds of practice questions; and (2) study the answers until it is thoroughly understood why the correct answer is considered correct and the incorrect answers are considered incorrect.</p> <p>Initially, practice tests will not be timed. For the last few classes we will practice with timed tests.</p>
Goals of the Course	Assist students in preparing for the MBE portion of the California Bar Exam.
Class attendance:	Students are expected to attend all classes. Roll will be taken. Students should be aware that California State Bar Association rules require that students who miss more than <b>three hours of class time</b> be dropped from the class.
Grading:	Pass/Fail
Grade determination:	Attendance; class participation; completion of practice exams; final exam (to simulate MBE portion of Bar Exam).

## Schedule

Sept. 8, 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Introduction: Instructor; goals of the class.</li> <li>▪ Brief discussion of the MBE portion of Cal. Bar Exam. The peculiar cruelty of MBEs. Good and bad news about MBEs. How to make MBEs work in your favor. Is it possible to make friends with MBEs?</li> <li>▪ HOMEWORK: (1) Read pp. vii – xxxix. (2) Do 50 MBE questions of your choosing and be prepared to explain why the correct answers are correct. If you do not have the text in time, find some MBE questions on line and use those.</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE: STUDENTS ARE ADVISED <i>NOT</i> TO CIRCLE ANSWERS OR OTHERWISE WRITE IN THEIR TEXTS. RATHER, USE A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER TO RECORD ANSWERS. THE FINAL DECISION IS YOURS, OF COURSE; BUT IF YOU KEEP YOUR TEXT UN-MARKED, THIS WILL HELP MAINTAIN THE RE-SALE VALUE OF YOUR TEXT, AND WILL ALSO ALLOW YOU TO RE-TAKE THE SAME QUESTIONS ON FUTURE OCCASIONS WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF TIPS (GOOD OR BAD) OR PREJUDICIAL INFORMATION.</b></p>
Sept. 22	<p><b>Contracts &amp; Torts MBEs.</b> HOMEWORK: Read Contracts “Strategies and Tactics,” pp. 71-83; do Contracts MBE questions, pp. 86-97; read Torts “Strategies and Tactics,” pp. 339-348; do Torts MBE questions, pp. 350-364.</p>
Oct. 6	<p><b>Criminal Law &amp; Procedure MBEs.</b> HOMEWORK: Read Criminal Law &amp; Procedure “Strategies and Tactics,” pp. 137-145; do Criminal Law &amp; Procedure MBE questions, pp. 148-163.</p>
Oct. 20	<p><b>Real Property and Future Interests MBEs.</b> HOMEWORK: Read Real Property “Strategies and Tactics,” pp. 271-281; do Real Property MBE questions, pp. 284-300.</p>
Nov. 3	<p><b>Constitutional Law and Evidence MBEs.</b> HOMEWORK: Read Constitutional Law “Strategies and Tactics,” pp. 1-17; do Constitutional Law MBE questions, pp. 20-34.</p>
Nov. 17	<p>Practice exams: Combined MBEs. HOMEWORK: To be announced</p>
Dec. 1	<p>Practice exams: Combined MBEs. HOMEWORK: To be announced</p>
12/6-12/16	<p>Final exam date to be announced.</p>