

MPRE Cheat Sheet 2026

The night-before summary, built like the exam.

60 Scored questions	2h Time limit	Set by each jurisdiction (...) Passing score
— Exam fee	National Conference of B... Governing body	— Pass rate

Test mechanics

- 60 questions (50 scored + 10 hidden pretest) · 2 hours · 3 administrations/year · Pearson VUE computers
- Scores scaled 50–150; passing set per jurisdiction (commonly 75–86) — check yours
- Required everywhere except Wisconsin & Puerto Rico; CT/NJ accept a law-school PR course
- Registration + fee by the deadline — no late registrations, ever; arrive 30 min early

The call of the question decodes the law

- Subject to discipline? -> Model Rules violation
- Subject to civil liability? -> malpractice standards
- Subject to disqualification? -> conflicts/motion law
- May the lawyer...? -> is it permitted (even if unwise)

Consent formulas (element-perfect or wrong)

- Concurrent conflict: reasonable belief + informed consent confirmed in writing — never for opposite sides of one case
- Former client: no adverse rep in substantially related matter w/o informed written consent
- Business deal with client: fair terms in writing + advise independent counsel in writing + signed consent
- Migrating lawyer: firm saved by timely screen + no fee share + notice; screened lawyer never touches the case
- No sex with clients (unless pre-existing) · no drafting yourself substantial gifts (unless relative)

Confidentiality exceptions (permissive)

- Prevent reasonably certain death/substantial bodily harm (no services requirement)
- Prevent/rectify substantial financial harm — only if client used your services
- Self-defense in client controversy (reasonably necessary only) · ethics advice · court order
- Duty!= privilege: duty = ALL info from any source, survives death; privilege = communications in evidence law

Litigation reflexes

- Disclose adverse controlling law opponent missed — never a duty for facts
- False evidence -> remonstrate -> withdraw -> disclose if needed (candor beats confidentiality)
- Fact witnesses: expenses + lost time only · experts: reasonable, never contingent
- No-contact rule: their consent means COUNSEL's consent, not the party's
- Jurors during trial: no contact about anything · judges: no merits ex parte
- Negotiation puffery (price/intent)!= material fact; coverage/document lies = violation
- Prosecutors: probable cause + timely exculpatory disclosure

Money & advertising

- Trust account: lawyer money only to cover bank charges · disputed amounts (incl. your fee, valid liens) stay in trust · records 5 years
- Advance fees -> trust until earned · receipt duties: notify + deliver + account, promptly
- No false/misleading ads: no 'best,' no guarantees · certified specialist claims need accredited certification
- Targeted truthful mail OK · live solicitation of strangers for money: banned (exceptions: lawyers, family, close friends, prior clients)
- Contingent fees: signed writing; barred in criminal & divorce/support cases
- Nonlawyers: no firm ownership, no per-case fee shares (profit-based comp plans OK)

Judges in four lines

- Disqualify when impartiality might reasonably be questioned; parties can remit many conflicts after disclosure
- No ex parte merits contact · no independent fact investigation — decide on the record
- Teaching/writing on law: encouraged, reasonable reported compensation
- Candidates: no pledges or promises on issues likely to come before the court

Official sources

- National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) — MPRE — NCBE Exams: <https://www.ncbex.org/exams/mpre>
- National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) — Preparing for the MPRE — NCBE: <https://www.ncbex.org/exams/mpre/preparing-mpre>
- National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) — Registering for the MPRE — NCBE: <https://www.ncbex.org/exams/mpre/registering-mpre>

Free practice questions for this exam: www.everyexamprep.com/practice/exams/legal/mpre