Providing “At-Risk” Students with the Skills Necessary to be Successful on the Bar Exam
Examinees who perform poorly on the bar exam do so consistently across all formats (MBE, essays, performance test)

Risk factors:
- Low undergraduate GPAs
- Low LSAT scores
- Low MPRE scores
- Low law school grades

*This information is summarized from a presentation by Susan Case, PhD, Director of Testing at NCBE on Oct. 4, 2013.*
Data from Own School

- Bar Exam Results
- Report from Asst. Dean for Academic Services
  - Rank, Final LGPA, 1L-GPA, Bar Pass
  - Determination: bottom 30% after 1st year most at-risk for failure
- Requirement: take 3 bar skill courses and 15 hours of bar subject electives
Bar Skill Courses

- Teach skills necessary for bar exam essays, performance test, & multiple choice
- JD credit and graded
- Final exam
- Exams and feedback given every week
  - Emphasis on skill
Bar Essay Writing

- Substantive lectures on subjects frequently essay tested on the bar exam
- Teach how to write and format concise answers to bar exam essay questions
- 2 hour course: 1 hour for lecture; 1 hour exam consisting of two 30-minute essays
Substantive lectures on state civil procedure topics regularly faced by attorneys

Teach how to quickly process packet contents and provide a clear and concise answer in the requested format

3 hour course: 1.5 hours for practicum; 1.5 hours for lecture on substance and format
Legal Fundamentals

- Substantive lectures on topics from MBE subjects
- Teach how to assess MBE questions and choose “best answer”
- Review of 1st year material
- 3 hour course: every other week take 30-question exam with review immediately following; lecture on alternate weeks
Feedback

- Grading rubrics that include comments
- Comments on individual exams
- Generalized comments in lecture covering common issues among the class
- Individual meetings
Questions?