

Announcer: Welcome to the extra mile podcast for barbers and 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 a Celebration Bar Review.

Jackson Mumey: Hey, everyone. Welcome to the extra mile podcast for Bar exam takers. This is Jackson Mumey and I'm really glad to be with you today. This is a bit of a milestone for us. This is episode number 50 of the podcast, which means we've been doing this for 25 weeks now, twice a week, and it's pretty exciting, really.

When I started out I really wondered if anyone was actually going to listen to these and I thought "Well, I might be just talking to myself for a while" and our number of subscribers started growing, actually pretty quickly, and continues to grow. We've already got more subscribers in the month of December in 2015, halfway through the month that we had in the previous months combined. That's really cool. I'm excited. I think that means that we're doing things that you all are finding interesting, and I really appreciate it if you are a subscriber. Thanks so much for giving up your time to find out what's going on in the Bar exam and spend your time with me. If you're not yet a subscriber, you can do so by going to iTunes, or you can go to our website at [celebrationbarreview.com](http://celebrationbarreview.com), click on the link for podcasts and you can subscribe there.

You can also go back and review the entire first 49 episodes. There are all there along with show notes. There's a lot of information there and it's great. The other way that I know that this podcast is making a difference is that I would say probably every couple of days now, I'm hearing from somebody who's inquiring about the course or the Bar exam, and says "I listened to one of your podcasts", which is just a weird thing to me. Yeah. Thanks. That's really cool. If there's material or information that you want us to focus on, definitely let me know that. Shoot me an email or the links are on the show notes. I'd love to hear from you, what you want.

I'm actually going to start next week a brand new series. This is a dangerous one. It's going to be called "The Truth about the Bar exam." I'm going to talk about some hard truths and probably not going to make a lot of friends with that, but I think it's time for people in my industry to start being truthful about what's going on and I think you're going to find those to be interesting conversations.

Today, at least as we're recording at the release date, we're about 70 days or so until the February 2016 Bar exam. That's a fairly significant point in time. Many of you, if you're in the traditional, big box bar review and just started those courses, I know that, because as soon as those courses start, I start hearing from people in those courses going "Oh My God, I can't believe how awful this is. I can't believe what a waste of time and energy and money it's been. Is there any way I can get into your course?" And the answer is, sometimes, yes, but more

importantly we just recognize that this is that moment when it starts to get very real for many people.

In today's lecture I'm going to be talking about what I call process, or outcome. At 70 days I think it's important to start thinking more about process and less about outcome or results, and I think that that's a fairly major paradigm shift for people. I'm going to talk about it in the conversation that follows in more detail, but I think it's just an important way to evaluate where your work is right now. If you're taking the exam in 2016, and maybe you're getting ready for the July test and you think "Well, I don't need to listen to this", I think it's still going to be valuable for you. Process and outcome is always important, but if you're in that 70 day window, it's really critical. I think this is an important message.

The other thing I want to just remind you about is that we continue to offer our free master class on how to make the next Bar exam your last Bar exam. If you're one of those people taking the exam in 2016 and you've not yet signed up for our master class, I encourage you to do so. It's a 90 minute course, as I say, it's totally free, but you do need to register in advance, and you can do that in 1 of 2 ways. You can text the phrase NEXTBAREXAM to 33444, so that's NEXTBAREXAM to 33444, or you can register on our website at [celebrationbarreview.com/webinar](http://celebrationbarreview.com/webinar) and join us. We'll be running this afternoon at 3:00 p.m. eastern, 12 noon pacific. Now, over the Christmas and New Year's holidays if you're listening to this fairly soon after I recorded it, we'll be doing what we call "Ever Webinars", which means that they're available every day, a couple times a day, for you to watch and respond. It's just like being in the real deal and we will set that up for you during the holiday period. Then, we will come back and start doing the live classes again in January.

This will be your last opportunity to do the live class until we get after the first of the year and it will be this afternoon, so if you're getting this on Thursday morning, make sure you hop on and join us for that master class. Well, again, just want to thank everybody for helping us get to the episode number 50. I think you'll find today's discussion to be really useful and helpful and let's just jump in and learn more about process or outcome with about 70 days to go to the Bar exam.

Hello, and welcome to Celebration Bar Review's webcast. We are counting down to your Bar exam. Now, about 70 to 72 days away, which really sounds to me like a long time, but I know that for many of you that sounds like it's just right around the corner. Some of you just completed your law school graduations this week or last and congratulations. You're just now beginning to get into your studies.

Others of you have been studying for a while in preparation for the test, so you should be really into the flow and the regular study schedule, if you will. For most jurisdictions, results have now been released from the previous exam, so there are many of you who are in a situation where you are re-taking the test,

maybe just got your results and are jumping back in to take the test again. No matter where you are in this process, one of the questions that comes up quite frequently at this stage is "Is my work of passing quality?" I think that's not really the right question to be asking right now. I think the better question to ask at this stage is what direction are you headed in? And that's my message to my students this week.

You see, at 70 days until the exam I don't expect much in the way of passing quality work from any student. It's great when we get it. I'm delighted when it happens, so if you've been studying for quite some time, it's very possible that you'll be doing passing quality work now, but by in large, most people don't do passing work at this stage. What we're really interested in is: are you getting better? Is there continuous progress or improvement in the work that you're doing? For example, if you are in our course and you're doing multiple choice, multi-state questions, you know that we give you a series of 100 questions to start in each of the 6 multi-state subjects. I'm often asked "What score is a good score to have on that?" And the answer is there is no answer. There is no score that we care about because it's not predictive. In our course you'll get the predictive part near the end, when you do full length actual exams. For now, the goal is to learn from what you're doing. To read the answer explanations and to get better.

If you're not in our course and you're doing multiple choice questions, I wouldn't worry so much on what your score looks like, frankly. Anyone worth their salt wouldn't be giving you full length exams at this stage anyway. Just concentrate on learning the law. Getting better at your substantive knowledge. When it comes to essay writing, regardless of the state that you're in, if you are in our course we've given you an essay writing format that we want you to follow. Right now your focus should be much more in getting the format or the structure of your writing correct, than on trying to be high substance. It's great if you've got the substance, but frankly, the most important step at this stage is that you have that writing structure as solid as you can get it. As consistent as you can get it. That's the direction that you should be headed in.

The analogy that I use with my students often is that I think of the writing approach as being like a container or a pot. You want to shape it, you want to make sure that it's solid, that it doesn't leak, that it's consistent. Once you've done that you can pour just about any substance into it, and that's the beauty of the writing system that we teach. Now, if you're not in our course, or you are studying on your own entirely, I think you want to be certain that with the essay work that you're doing that you're simply getting better at it than you were before. It's unlikely, if you've just started out, that your work is going to be passing quality. Sometimes the expectations are unrealistic for lawyers and Bar students. They expect that after 1 or 2 attempts at writing their work should be passing quality. While that happens in a very small minority of students, by en-large, doesn't work that way, so don't set that expectation that's unrealistic because you'll just discourage yourself if you don't reach it.

Indeed, I think it's much better to take your written work and say "Is this piece of work better, more consistent, better formatted, better structured, better mechanically, written in less time than the essays I did last week or last month?" If so, you're moving in the right direction. In the same way, if you're taking a performance test, are you doing it under the time conditions that are given? Are you consistent and better with that in organization and tone and audience than you were with the one you did last week or last month? If so, you're headed in the right direction. That's what you really want to focus and think about right now. It's much too easy to be fixated on passing quality. The time for that consideration, the time for that focus will come, but it's too early right now, regardless of what kind of a course you're in, or really, how long you've been studying. For right now, think about direction. Are you getting better? Are you getting more proficient?

If you're just starting now, don't take an expectation that you're going to sit down and immediately do 100 multiple choice questions and get 85 of them correct. It generally doesn't happen. In the same way, don't think you're gonna sit down with an essay and bang it out and suddenly it's perfect and everyone is raving about how you're doing. A special word for those of you who might not be taking any course and you're just planning on using the Bar examiners release of model answers. By en-large that's probably one of the worst sources you could ever get. It doesn't give you any sense at all of what's really going on, and I think it's a very dangerous way to study. I know people do it all the time and in general, I think it's misleading as much as it's helpful.

Now, I will say that in Florida we just got some interesting news. Two of the model answers being released by the examiners are coming from our students from that exam, which means that we have a disproportion, or a high representation in those models, so I guess if you had to do it in Florida, you would at least see something that looks a little different than the normal IRAC and you might say "Huh, I wonder what it's going on there?" You will know that those are Celebration answers. But, generally, looking at a model answer is not the way to go here. It's not the way to learn how to do things.

The better focus is to look at your previous work. Are you getting better? If you get better structure, better organized answers, answers that explain your reasoning more effectively, you can then improve the substance, and you will improve the substance as you get closer to exam day, so keep that in mind no matter how you're studying.

If you're in our course, you already know how I feel about comparing your work to models and sample answers. There are those answers available, but really, what we want you to do is to look at: are you getting better? Are you moving in the proper direction? If you're doing that, I think you are gonna find that the next 70 days become much more productive for you than if you set your sights on doing and having passing work today. Not necessary today. Not realistic, generally doesn't happen. As you move forward you'll get better, you'll get

faster, you'll get more efficient. That's the purpose of your study, so work steadily, work in the proper direction, and if you do that I think you're gonna have a much more successful week of study.

With that, I will sign off and wait to talk to you next week when I hope that you're further down that road towards success on your Bar exam. Thanks.

Jackson Mumey: 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 and we will see you, along the Extra Mile.

Announcer: Thanks for listening to the Extra Mile podcast for Bar exam takers at [www.celebrationbarreview.com](http://www.celebrationbarreview.com).