

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. Now your host, Jackson Mumey, owner of Celebration Bar Review.

Jackson Mumey: Welcome, everyone, to episode 53 of The Extra Mile Podcast for Bar Exam Takers. This is Jackson Mumey. I'm glad to have you with us. Happy New Year. If you're listening close to the release date, we are hopefully producing this episode to come out in the week between Christmas and New Years. This is a busy time, particularly for people getting ready for the February bar exam. It's a time when studies really begin to kick into gear for almost everyone. If you're in one of the big box bar reviews, you've already started a couple weeks in. Unfortunately, you're probably just now realizing how totally on your own you are, which I know can be a really bad feeling. We'll do our best to assist you from this vantage point. If you're in our course, obviously you've been going for a while now in most cases. We've been talking and working. I think today's message might be a little more of a repeat for some of you in my course than some of you who are not, but I think it's a useful one.

We're going to be talking today about what I call the hasty bar student. It really comes from, as you'll hear, a series of children's books about these little bears, and one of them was called Hasty Bear. I know. Really, is that the best I can do? Hasty Bear? Hasty bar? You get the idea. The real point of the message today is that when people are getting started and they're underway, there is a tendency to want to cut corners, to feel like you've got to hurry up, you've got to go really fast, you've got to do things really quickly. I think that that's a misconception. I'm going to explain in today's episode why I think that's true and what you need to do about it, some signs of how you can avoid it, and some things that you can do to keep yourself in a more level and predictable way of studying if you are, as many people are, now within about 60 days, or so, until their bar exam. I think it's going to be a useful message for you today.

If you're taking the bar exam in July of 2016 or later, this is also a useful message to have, because, if you've already started to think about the bar exam at least enough to be listening to these podcasts, you're probably doing some initial stages, if not outright studying. The same thing can actually be true for you, in terms of feeling like you're just ... I had a July student who said to me recently, "I feel behind." How could you possibly be behind at this stage? There's that mentality that goes on, and so I think you'll find this useful as well. I do want to invite all of you who are listening to our podcast to subscribe if you're not a regular subscriber. We produce these episodes twice a week, and you can go to iTunes and subscribe. You can also go to our website at [celebrationbarreview.com](http://celebrationbarreview.com) and catch up on all the prior episodes, also check out the show notes, and you can subscribe from there, as well. We invite you to do that.

Then, finally, before we jump into today's message, I want to just remind you that over the holiday period we are running our free master class, How to Make the Next Bar Exam Your Last Bar Exam. These are the four steps that every

passing bar taker needs to know. You can register for your seat. We're offering the class four times a day right now over the holidays, so you get a choice of times. All you have to do is go to [celebrationbarreview.com](http://celebrationbarreview.com). When you get to our webpage there, you'll see a button that says "claim my free seat". Go ahead and just click on that to reserve your seat.

It's a 90-minute course in which I talk through these four strategies for passing the bar. It's been extremely well received by people that have gone through it. I think you're going to find it helpful and interesting, regardless of when you're taking the bar, whether it's February, July, or maybe even beyond those dates. I encourage you to go to [celebrationbarreview.com](http://celebrationbarreview.com), sign up for the master class. That's the things that we've got going on right now. Glad to have you with us. Hope that this period of time between Christmas and New Years has been restful for you so far, and continues to be productive. I think you're going to enjoy this message today about hasty bar students.

Hi, and welcome to Celebration Bar Review. I thought today in my message I would do something a little different, and I hope you won't find it too off-putting. I'm actually going to read you a children's story. It's one that I'm pretty sure was read to me as a child, and I know I read it to our children. It comes from a book published back in the 1950s. The actual book is called "Sly Little Bear and Other Bears". It's a classic. The great part was it was \$0.25 when it was first available, and now I see it's available for \$125. There you go, there's value in the old books. The reason I'm going to use a children's story is because there are certain truths in these stories.

There's actually three stories in this book. We're going to talk about one today called "Hasty Little Bear", although I'm going to call it "Hasty Bar Student", because the truth in the story really does apply. I think it's a great way for us to see into the way that behavior affects your bar studies. If you will permit me to read or paraphrase a part of "Hasty Little Bear", and then I'm going to tell you how it actually, in my view, applies to bar students. This is our story of Hasty Little Bear. I'm not going to make you read all of it in the pictures, but here's how it works out.

"Hasty Bear," his mother said one day, "would you please hurry out and pick some colored, pretty leaves for me?" "Yes, ma'am. I will," said Hasty Bear. Off he went in such a hurry that he never heard his mother saying, "Only don't pick the shiny, red, three-leaved kind with berries." By the time she was saying, "Because they're poison ivy and they make you itch," he was well into the woods looking for the brightest leaves he could find. Sycamore leaves were a beautiful yellow, and he thought they'd be nice until he saw how red and bright the maple leaves were. He thought, well, I'll just get a big bunch of those. Then he saw some still redder leaves, shiny ones, three together on a stem with beautiful berries. He picked and picked until he had a most enormous red bunch, and he started back home. Halfway home, Hasty Bear rubbed his nose

and it began to itch. His paws felt itchy, too, and so did his toes and the edges of his ears.

By the time the little bear got home, he held the leaves out to his mother, he was itching all over. Are you feeling a little scratchy, yourselves? What was worse, his mother backed away from the leaves. "Oh, Hasty Bear," she cried. "After all I said, you picked poison ivy leaves." "Have I?" Said Hasty Bear. "I said don't pick the shiny, three-leaved kind with berries, because they're poison ivy and make you itch," said his mother. "Now let me scrub you and put the lotion on you for the itching." "Oh, yes," said Hasty Bear, dropping leaves in one spot, clothes in another. "Please do." I'll spare you the picture of the naked bear. Pretty soon Hasty Bear was much more comfortable, itching just a little and all dressed in clean clothes. "I'll get you some maple leaves," he said. "Fine," said his mother, who was busily sweeping the poison ivy ones out the door. "Maple leaves are lovely." This time, before he went running out, Hasty Bear waited for a whole minute to be sure he had heard everything his mother had to say.

Hopefully the moral of the story comes out pretty clearly. One of the things that happens to bar takers in this process, as they start to get into studying actively, within typically a 90-day window for the exam, is that they become hasty. They become so preoccupied with results that they don't listen to all the instructions. They don't follow process. I tend to see this a lot, particularly with practicing attorneys who are getting ready, and trying to run their practice, and take care of their families, and take care of business, and everything else. The result is that they tend to jump around. I get phone calls from students who just enrolled who just jump right in, like Hasty Bear, and they don't follow the syllabus. They don't follow the steps involved in the learning.

You might say, "Well, what's wrong with that? Why can't I just jump in? Why can't I just get to the things I want to get to?" The answer is that a good course has some pedagogy behind it, it has some design behind it. In our course, the design is built on the idea of stepped repetition, that you will take a step, and then move up a little, and repeat a little, and then take another step, and repeat a little again. In order to make that system work, you have to go through these stepped repetitions. In addition, a course like ours will be very specific about how long each assignment should take. Very often, I'll hear students say, "Well, it took me five or six or seven hours to do a reading that you said should be three hours, but I didn't understand the subject well enough so I spent more time with it."

On its face, that sounds like a really good decision, but it's a really bad decision because of the design of the course, designed to go back through and work through in repetition, and give you time to get through all of those subjects. What happens is that in the haste to get started, to jump in and just make it all happen, this flurry of activity, we get people who don't pay attention to the rules. What happens to them? Just like Hasty Bear, there's usually some painful effect, some itching, because suddenly they realize they don't know how to do

the writing, or they're multi-state performance isn't as good as it should be, or they're frustrated because they can't figure out how to organize the reading and the lectures and the question practice, even though all that information is provided for them. They end up having to go back and redo that material, or go back through those assignments again.

Perhaps you're one of those people. Although, five minutes into this video, the Hasty Bears have usually left when I said I was going to read a children's book. If you're with me this far, the point I really want to emphasize to you is the critical nature of following directions, of believing in process. Even if you're not in our course, and why aren't you, you should follow the process that's been set forth for you in the study materials that you have. That process, no matter whose it is, is going to be better than what you just randomly came up with in chaos and frustration and panic and fear. You want to follow it. If you're in our course, I can tell you that process is what allows us to get our students to the finish line with good results consistently, year after year, exam after exam.

When people don't follow that process, inevitably what happens, like Hasty Bear, they end up being very uncomfortable, making me uncomfortable, making the course uncomfortable, but more importantly they waste their time. In an effort to be doing the right thing, to show so much energy and so much activity, just like Hasty Bear, they forget to pay attention to the directions. They forget to listen to the directions. If you're in our course, the warning I would give you is to pay attention to your study guide and syllabus, or, if you've got a question, to contact us and let us direct you properly. If you're not in our course, check with your bar review provider and make sure that you're doing what they want you to do. Don't just flail around wildly and with fear and frightened. It doesn't get you very much. At the end of the day, you end up having to go back and do that work again.

That's our little [homily 00:11:46] for today, Hasty Little Bear. I'll be back in a few days to talk about another of the little bears called Sly Little Bear. I think you'll be surprised about how Sly Little Bear fits into the bar exam, as well. Thanks very much for watching, and have a great study day. 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:

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How did Aisha do?