

Current state and issues of increase in
female legal professionals
—— Analysis of the gender differences of the
passing rate in the National Bar Examination ——

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This paper focuses on the gender differences of the passing rate in the National Bar Examination in Japan and discusses what would make such differences. Currently, the Bar Examination consists of the computer-graded multiple-choice exam and the essay exams. When an applicant does not reach a certain score in the multiple-choice exam, the applicant is automatically rejected regardless of the score of the essay exams. It turned out that the successful rate of the multiple-choice exam has a clear gender difference, resulting in the passing rate of the whole bar exam. I interviewed ten lawyers who are tutoring law school students' **study** on their ideas about what made this gender difference. Based on the statistics and interviews, I propose the following three hypotheses: (a) it may be more difficult for female students to **obtain their family's understanding and** support for their bar exam preparation; (b) female students may be more easily shifted to look for a job rather than concentrating on the bar exam; and (c) it may be more difficult for female students to learn strategically. One or more of these hypotheses may be the reason (s) of current state. While we need to wait for a more empirical research in order to identify the answer, I consider that the

gender difference in physical strength does not influence the passing rate.