

The Surveillance Technology Oversight Project (S.T.O.P.) has repeatedly warned against New York State's planned remote bar examination on October 5th and 6th. The remote exam software uses invasive, error prone, and biased technologies such as facial recognition and other artificial intelligence. These technologies put the examinees' privacy and future careers at risk.

The planned remote bar exam puts examinees at a significant risk of identity theft, ransomware attacks, and other computer crimes. There have been reports of such incidents in other states using ExamSoft, New York's vendor, including a DDOS attack during the July exam in Michigan. Although the remote examination makes it impossible to completely protect yourself from cyber-attacks and related crimes, you can take basic steps to reduce your risks.

Before the Exam

- Ensure your computer and its software is up to date to hinder potential hackers taking advantage of any local security vulnerabilities.
- Use strong and safe passwords and never use the same password twice. We strongly suggest the use of a password manager to ensure your safety. PCMag has listed and evaluated some of the free password managers currently on the market.
- Prior attacks accessed information in examinees' browsers, such as passwords and credit card numbers. You can increase your security by:
 - Deleting saved passwords;
 - Logging out from personal accounts;
 - Deleting cookies and cache; and
 - Installing a new, never before used browser or creating a new, one-time browser profile for exam day.

After the Exam

- Complete a virus scan of your computer to ensure there is no malware.
- Be sure to monitor your bank account and credit cards for suspicious activity.
- Check email accounts and social media for new, unexplained logins or activities.
- In case you would be subject to identity-theft, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has compiled a guide on what steps you need to take. They have also included sample letters and forms you may use.

Please note that this information is offered only for educational purposes, not as legal advice. Please contact an attorney in your jurisdiction if you have any questions about how to protect your rights.