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Did harris pass the bar exam

Claim: U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris failed the California bar exam on her first attempt, soon after she graduated law school in 1989. On July 24, 2024, at a campaign rally, former U.S. President Donald Trump attacked Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic frontrunner for president, on her lawyer credentials. Trump claimed she was a "lousy student" and "couldn't pass her bar exams." A number of posts on X discussed Harris' credentials, questioning why she became a prosecutor and later attorney general of California after having failed her bar exam. Harris did fail the California bar exam on her first attempt but she later passed and was admitted to the California bar in 1990, just a year after she graduated. As such, we rate this claim as "True" with added context. The bar exam is a qualifying written exam administered by a jurisdiction for lawyers to practice law in that particular state. According to a 2016 New York Times profile of Harris about her Senate campaign, she did fail the bar exam on her first try. Harris described consoling a recent law graduate who did not make it either: "[Harris] failed the bar exam the first time she took it. Harris says she recently consoled a young law graduate who also didn't pass; 'I told her, it's not a measure of your capacity.'" Harris was admitted to the bar in June 1990 according to the State Bar of California records. She graduated from the University of California Hastings school of law in 1989. The California bar exam has been described as notoriously difficult. According to the Los Angeles Times there was an only 41.8% pass rate in 1985. In July 1989, according to the Los Angeles Times, 59.5% of people passed and won the right to practice law from the July 1989 exams, and the pass rate was 72.2% among the 4,909 people taking the exam for the first time. In February 1990, the likely date Harris took the bar exam for a second time, the pass rate was 45.9%. Only 33.9% of people passed the February 2024 general bar exam. "Bar Examination." LII / Legal Information Institute. . Accessed 26 July 2024.Bazon, Emily. "Kamala Harris, a 'Top Cop' in the Era of Black Lives Matter." The New York Times, 25 May 2016. NYTimes.com, . Accessed 26 July 2024."General Bar Examination Pass Rate Summary." The State Bar of California, . Accessed 26 July 2024."Kamala Devi Harris # 146672." Attorney Licensee Search. . Accessed 26 July 2024.Kepley, John. "UC Law SF Congratulates Kamala Harris '89: California's next U.S. Senator." UC Law San Francisco (Formerly UC Hastings), 9 Nov. 2016, . Accessed 26 July 2024.Oliver, Myrna. "41.8% Pass Rate Baffles Experts : Legal Profession Frets as Bar Exam Failures Soar." Los Angeles Times, 20 Jan. 1985, . Accessed 26 July 2024."PASSING THE BAR EXAM." Los Angeles Times, 3 Mar. 1990, . Accessed 26 July 2024."State Bar Releases Results of February 2024 Bar Exam." The State Bar of California, . Accessed 26 July 2024."Trump Turns His Focus to Harris at His First Rally after Biden's Exit from the 2024 Race." NBC News, 25 July 2024, . Accessed 26 July 2024."Trump Turns His Full Focus on Harris at His First Rally since Biden's Exit from the 2024 Race." AP News, 24 July 2024, . Accessed 26 July 2024. WATCH: Trump says to NABJ Convention VP Harris 'became a Black person'At the National Association of Black Journalists Convention, former President Donald Trump questioned vice president Kamala Harris' racial identity.Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, during an interview at the National Association of Black Journalists conference Wednesday, falsely claimed that presumptive Democratic nominee Vice President Kamala Harris failed to pass the California bar exam.The falsity was said during an exchange when Semafor reporter Kaida Goba asked if the former president would step down if he felt he was unable to continue in the presidency if elected. Trump responded by challenging Harris, whom he is 19 years older than, to a cognitive test."She failed her bar exam. She did not pass her bar exam, so maybe she would not pass the cognitive test," Trump said. "She did not pass her bar exam, and she did not think she would pass it, and she did not think she would ever pass it, and I don't know what happened."Harris has said that she did not pass the exam on her first attempt, but she later passed and was admitted to the California Bar the year after she finished law school.Trump's claim came amongst a slew of derogatory attacks at the Vice President during the interview, including questioning the authenticity of her heritage."I didn't know she was Black until a number of years ago when she happened to turn Black, and now she wants to be known as Black," Trump said.The former president also claimed that Harris was a "DEI" candidate and called moderator Rachel Scott of ABC News rude for repeating the candidate's previous derogatory statements about the Black community.Trump's interview was scheduled to last for an hour but was ended in less than 35 minutes with Scott closing the interview by saying, "we have to leave it there, by the Trump team."The claim about Harris' bar-exam performance first appeared during the 2020 confirmation hearings of Associate Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett and is true but lacks context. Harris passed the bar exam and worked as a prosecutor in California before becoming the Attorney General in the state.Cut through misinformation: Our Checking the Facts newsletter lets you understand the news, without the spin. Sign up here.The bar exam is the qualifying examination for lawyers to receive a license to practice law in a given state.California has a notoriously difficult bar exam. In 1985, the Los Angeles Times wrote that its pass rate "has generally hovered around 50%."Harris graduated from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in 1989.Harris told the New York Times in 2016 that she failed the exam on her first attempt and consoled a recent law graduate who also failed the exam saying, "I told her, it's not a measure of your capacity."The California Bar shows that Harris was admitted in 1990 and allowed her license to become inactive in February 2021.In 2020, when the claim first appeared, the pass rate for "first timers" taking the test was just over 67%. Less than 45% of "first timers" that took the test in February passed, according to a report from the California Bar.Charleston School of Law Dean Larry Cunningham told USA TODAY in 2020 that the exam has been criticized as "unrealistic" and insufficient to assess some important legal skills, like interviewing clients and arguing in court."These criticisms also explain why many law graduates who struggle to pass this high-stakes exam on the first attempt go on to become excellent lawyers and judges," he wrote. Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has claimed United States Vice President Kamala Harris, the likely Democratic candidate, failed to pass the bar exam. The former United States president made the remarks on Wednesday (July 31) at the National Association of Black Journalists convention."She failed her bar exam. She did not pass her bar exam, so maybe she would not pass the cognitive test. She did not pass her bar exam, and she did not think she would pass it, and she did not think she would ever pass it, and I don't know what happened," Trump said when asked if he would step down as US president - if elected - if he felt he could not continue.Later, he conceded, after being challenged by someone in the crowd, that she "maybe" had passed the exam, reported CNN. Trump also made other claims during the conference, which are not entirely factually correct. Let's take a closer look.Did Harris fail the bar exam?Harris did fail the California bar exam on her first attempt. She has reportedly admitted so herself. However, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee passed the exam later and was admitted to the California bar in 1990, the year after she finished law school, reported CNN.The bar exam is the qualifying examination that lawyers must pass to get a licence to practice law in a given state.Harris passed the bar exam and went on to serve as a prosecutor in California. She later became the state's Attorney General.According to a USA TODAY report, claims about Harris' bar exam results first came up in 2020 at the time of confirmation hearings of Associate Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett.Notably, it is not uncommon to fail the California bar exam on the first try. As per the Los Angeles Times' 1985 article, the pass rate "has generally hovered around 50 per cent."The pass rate remains around 50 per cent even now. In 2020, just over 67 per cent of "first-timers" taking the California Bar Examination passed. In February this year, the pass rate for first-timers was below 45 per cent, reported USA TODAY.Speaking to New York Times (NYT) in 2016, Harris said she did not pass the exam on her first attempt. She said she once told a recent law graduate who also failed the exam: "I told her, it's not a measure of your capacity."The California Bar website shows that Harris was admitted in June 1990 and her license became inactive in February 2021.Trump's other 'lies'Attacking Harris, Trump claimed she had suddenly adopted a Black identity. The US vice president's father is from Jamaica and her mother was from India.Trump claimed, "I've known her a long time, indirectly, not directly very much, and she was always of Indian heritage, and she was only promoting Indian heritage. I didn't know she was Black until a number of years ago when she happened to turn Black, and now she wants to be known as Black. So I don't know, is she Indian or is she Black?"When a journalist countered the former US president, saying Harris has always identified as Black and had gone to a historically Black college, Trump said, "I respect either one, but she obviously doesn't. Because she was Indian all the way, and then all of a sudden, she made a turn, and she went - she became a Black person. And I think somebody should look into that, too."Donald Trump attacked Kamala Harris' identity. APIn 1986, Harris graduated from Howard University, which is historically a Black varsity. She was also a member of a historically Black sorority, noted CNN.Harris' 2005 online biography as San Francisco district attorney refers to her as "the first African American woman in California to hold the office".In her 2019 memoir, the Democratic VP wrote that her mother instilled in her and her sister Maya "pride in our South Asian roots," but also "my mother understood very well that she was raising two black daughters. She knew that her adopted homeland would see Maya and me as black girls, and she was determined to make sure we would grow into confident, proud black women."Trump also made other inaccurate claims. He said the US witnessed its worst inflation in "over 100 years". This is not correct. As CNN mentioned, when inflation peaked at 9.1 per cent during the Joe Biden presidency, it was at a nearly 41-year high. It has currently dropped to 3 per cent.He claimed "everybody," including Democrats, wanted Roe v Wade overturned. However, polls have shown about two-thirds of the public and a larger percentage of Democrats wanted to preserve the abortion law.Trump reiterated his allegations that foreign countries opened their prisons to let criminals migrate to the US. This has not been proven.He cited the Presidential Records Act to claim he was "protected" for taking official documents after his presidency. According to CNN, the law requires presidents to hand over all such documents when they exit the White House.His claim that "nobody died" on January 6, 2021 in the US Capitol attack is untrue. Five people, including a Capitol Police officer, had lost their lives.With inputs from agencies