

Supreme Court

In re Amendment to Article II of the :
Supreme Court Rules :
(Admission of Attorneys and Others to :
Practice Law) :

ORDER

Article II of the Supreme Court Rules is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Rule 1. Admission on Examination. Every person applying for admission to the bar upon examination shall file a written application, under oath, in the clerk's office and shall satisfy the board of bar examiners that:

- (a) * * *
- (b) * * *
- (c) ~~If admitted, he/she intends to practice law in this state;~~
- ~~(d) He/She has graduated from a law school accredited and approved by the American Bar Association and approved by the board; and~~
- (d) If a graduate of a law school in a country other than the United States, that said law school and further professional training accompanying the same meet the standards of law schools accredited or approved by the American Bar Association and approved by the Board; and

- (e) * * *

Note. * * *

General Information

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All candidates must appear, when notified, for a personal interview with a member of the Committee on Character and Fitness. ~~The candidate must bring to the interview his/her diploma or certificate of law school graduation. This will only be required if prior to your interview the Certificate of Dean of Law School has not been forwarded to the Committee.~~

* * *

~~A candidate will be required to demonstrate that his/her immediate purpose in taking the examination is to make the practice of law in this state, or teaching of law related subjects whether in or outside of this state, his/her principal occupation.~~

Candidates who are graduates of a law school in a country other than the United States will be required to demonstrate to the Board that said law school and further professional training accompanying the same meet the standards of law schools accredited or approved by the American Bar Association and approved by the Board. The candidate will be required to have an American Bar Association accredited law school certify that said foreign law school meets this standard, and shall submit to a character investigation conducted by the National Conference of Bar Examiners. The Board may require, in its discretion, further training in an American Bar Association approved school.

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All applications of bar applicants will be destroyed either (a) ~~seven (7)~~ ten (10) years from date of admission or (b) five (5) years from the last examination taken.

* * *

“Rule 2. Attorney admitted in other states. A person who has been admitted as an attorney of the highest court of any state, district or territory of the United States for at least five (5) years who applies for admission in this State shall only be required to take the essay portion of the Rhode Island bar examination upon the applicant's compliance with the following conditions:

- | | | | |
|-----|---|---|---|
| (a) | * | * | * |
| (b) | * | * | * |
| (c) | * | * | * |

(d) Said applicant shall provide the court with a certificate of admission from the highest judicial court of such state, district or territory, of which he/she is admitted-, and shall submit to a character investigation conducted by the National Conference of Bar Examiners.

* * *

“Rule 3. Admission to the bar: committee on character and fitness.

- | | | | |
|-----|---|---|---|
| (a) | * | * | * |
| (b) | * | * | * |
| (c) | * | * | * |
| (d) | * | * | * |

(e) Persons seeking admission to the practice of law shall, not later than May 1 of the year in which they intend to take a July examination, and not later than December 1 next preceding the year in which they intend to take the February examination, file with the Committee on Character and Fitness and with the Clerk of the Supreme Court the petition~~and~~ questionnaire on a form to be furnished by the Clerk, except that applicants who are graduates of a law school in a country

other than the United States shall submit the petition/questionnaire not later than April 1 for the July examination, and not later than November 1 for the February examination. The petition/questionnaire shall also contain a certificate signed by two (2) persons certifying the applicant's good moral character. The petition/questionnaire shall be executed by the applicant under oath. The foregoing requirements as to the time of filing may be waived ~~by the Committee~~ for good cause shown.

(f) * * *

(g) * * *

(h) The petition/questionnaire provided by an applicant shall be maintained by the Committee. Sections A and D of the petition/questionnaire shall be available to the public. Any documentary material submitted in connection with the petition/questionnaire, and Sections B and C of the petition/questionnaire shall be maintained by the Committee and shall not be available to the public except by order of the Court, ~~inasmuch as the documentary materials and the information in Sections B and C may contain information related to medical and/or psychological matters, educational performance, personal finance and/or employment performance matters of the individual applicant.~~ The entire petition/questionnaire of each applicant shall be maintained for a period of no less than ten (10) years from the date of filing the petition/questionnaire, and thereafter destroyed in accordance with Supreme Court retention policies. All hearings and matters referred to the Committee for investigation shall be confidential. No member of the Committee at any time, either while a member of the Committee or thereafter, shall disclose any matter in any file, except at the request of the Committee, or the Supreme Court or unless legally required to do so. All minutes or records circulated to members of the Committee shall be kept confidential. All petitions/questionnaires and any documentary material in connection therewith which have been submitted to or are maintained by the Committee or the Clerk of the Supreme Court prior to the enactment of this rule, which do not contain separate sections B and C as described above, shall continue to be confidential and shall not be available to the public. Subject to any fees set by the Court, applicants may obtain copies of petition/questionnaires submitted to the Clerk, and shall be provided access to transcripts of hearings held before the Committee, and materials supplied by third parties which have been the subject of a hearing before the Committee. Additional application materials shall not be available to the applicant except by order of the Court.

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“Rule 4. Fees and notice. An applicant for admission by examination pursuant to Rule 1 shall pay to the Character and Fitness Committee a fee of ~~Four~~ Six Hundred ~~Fifty~~ Dollars (\$~~45~~600.00). Attorneys seeking admission under Rule 2

shall pay to the Clerk a fee of ~~Five~~ Seven Hundred ~~Fifty~~ Dollars (\$~~55~~700.00). Rule 1 applicants who are graduates of a law school in a country other than the United States and Rule 2 applicants shall pay a separate fee to the National Conference of Bar Examiners for the required character investigation, including a supplemental report upon retaking the examination. An applicant who has failed an examination and wishes to take a subsequent examination shall pay to the Clerk a fee of ~~Four~~ Six Hundred ~~Fifty~~ Dollars (\$~~45~~600.00). An applicant who chooses to defer taking the examination to a subsequent date shall pay to the Clerk an additional fee of ~~Two~~ Three Hundred ~~Twenty-Five~~ Dollars (\$~~225~~300.00). Applicants who request that their Multi-State bar examination scores be forwarded to another jurisdiction shall pay to the Clerk a fee of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00). Applicants who request a copy of their previously submitted petition/questionnaire and copies of any additional bar application materials shall pay to the Clerk a fee as set by the Court. At least ten (10) days prior to examination or, in the case of applicants for attorney admission ~~on motion~~, at least seven (7) days prior to such admission, the board shall cause to be published in a legal notice or news story in a daily newspaper of general circulation in this state the name of such applicant. All fees collected pursuant to this rule shall be used to cover the costs of administering the examination with any surplus to be deposited into the general fund."

Entered as an Order of this Court this 3rd day of *April 2012*.

/s/
Suttell, C. J.

/s/
Goldberg, J.

/s/
Flaherty, J.

/s/
Robinson, J.

/s/
Indeglia, J.