

Supreme Court

In re Amendment to Article IV, Rule 1 :
of the Supreme Court Rules :
(Attorney Demographic Survey). :

ORDER

Article IV, Rule 1 of the Supreme Court Rules is hereby amended as follows:

“Rule 1. Periodic Registration of Attorneys.

* * *

(c) Each registration period, every attorney is asked to voluntarily complete an anonymous demographic data collection survey approved by the Supreme Court. The purpose of the survey is to determine the demographic composition of the Rhode Island Bar, help identify areas of need for the attorneys, enhance the Rhode Island Bar’s effectiveness, professionalism, and ability to serve the community, and increase awareness of important issues that affect the practice of law. Survey responses shall not be attributable to individual attorneys. All demographic data collected from attorneys through the registration process shall be confidential and not accessible to the public.

(ed) Any attorney who discontinues the practice of law in this State may elect to change the attorney’s status to inactive. Inactive attorneys shall pay an annual registration fee of \$50. Inactive attorneys will no longer be eligible to practice law in this State but shall continue to register annually with the Court for as long as the attorney remains inactive.

* * *

(de) The name of any person who has not on or before July first filed the current annual registration statement and paid the annual attorney registration fee shall be assessed a \$125 late fee and shall be removed from the Master Roll of Attorneys. Any person whose name is not on the Master Roll and who practices law or who holds himself or herself out in any manner to the public or to another person as being competent, qualified, authorized or entitled to practice law in this State is engaged in the unauthorized practice of law and may be subject to the disciplinary procedures of this Court.

(ef) Any attorney whose name has been removed from the Master Roll for failure to comply with this rule, and/or who has been suspended from the practice of law for non-payment of Bar Association dues, has been removed from the Master Roll for failure to comply with Rule 3 (Mandatory Continuing Legal Education), or who has been on inactive status and wants to return to active status, shall file an application with this Court seeking reinstatement.

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(~~f~~g) An attorney who wishes to resign from the practice of law in this State shall follow the procedures set forth in Article III, Rule 23 (Resignation). An attorney who resigns or who has been subject to disciplinary action shall continue to update the attorney's registration information with the Court for five (5) years thereafter in order that the attorney can be located in the event complaints are made about the attorney's conduct while the attorney was engaged in practice in this State. Any attorney who has been subject to disciplinary action who seeks reinstatement shall proceed under Article III, Rule 16 (Reinstatement).

(~~g~~h) An attorney in the practice of law in another jurisdiction and who is removed from the Master Roll for a period in excess of six (6) months shall, in addition to any other prerequisite contained in these rules before being returned to the Master Roll, first provide to this court a certificate from the appropriate disciplinary tribunal of the jurisdiction in which the attorney has been practicing law that (a) the attorney is a member in good standing of the bar in such jurisdiction, and (b) that no disciplinary action is pending against the attorney in the other jurisdiction.

(~~h~~i) Members of the State and Federal judiciary are exempt from compliance with this rule.

(~~i~~j) The annual attorney registration statements, registration fees, and changes to attorney registration information that must be submitted to the Court pursuant to this rule shall be submitted via the Rhode Island Supreme Court Attorney Portal, except that a single payment from an employer for five (5) attorneys or more may be submitted manually to the Court with confirmation, on the form prescribed by the Clerk of the Supreme Court, that each attorney for which payment is being submitted has updated the attorney's registration information on the Attorney Portal.

(~~j~~k) Any attorney who is unable to comply with these requirements due to illness, financial, or personal difficulties, may petition the Court, with proper documentation, for an exemption to this rule. For an exemption to the electronic filing requirements in subsection (~~j~~i) of this rule, an attorney may petition the Court in accordance with the waiver process as set forth in Article X, Rule 3(c).

(~~k~~l) All funds collected pursuant to this rule shall be deposited in a separate account entitled "Supreme Court Disciplinary Account" and shall be disbursed by the State Court Administrator upon the order of the Chief Justice.

Entered as an Order of this Court this *21st* day of *April 2025*.

/s/

Suttell, C. J.

/s/

Goldberg, J.

/s/

Robinson, J.

/s/

Lynch Prata, J.

/s/

Long, J.