

In re Amendments to :
Board of Bar Examiners :
Rules of Practice Governing :
Admission on Examination :
and Transferred Uniform :
Bar Examination Score. :

ORDER

Section 1. The Board of Bar Examiners Rules of Practice Governing Admission on Examination and Transferred Uniform Bar Examination Score (Board Rules) is hereby amended as follows:

1. COMPOSITION AND SCOPE OF THE BOARD OF BAR EXAMINERS.

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- h.** These Rules of Practice set forth the requirements for admission to the Rhode Island Bar pursuant to Article II, Rules 1 (Admission on Examination), 1A (Attorney Admission on Examination), and 1B (Admission on Transferred UBE Uniform Bar Examination (“UBE”) Score); and ~~2(a) (Attorney admission on examination)~~.

Section 2. The Board Rules is hereby amended as follows:

2. RULE 1 APPLICANT – ADMISSION ON EXAMINATION.

- a. General.** This Section sets forth the rules governing admission to practice law in Rhode Island on examination pursuant to Article II, Rule 1 of the Supreme Court Rules. Except for those individuals who meet the limited exceptions set forth in Article II, Rules 1B and ~~2(b)–(e)~~, all persons seeking admission to the Rhode Island Bar shall be required to apply for, sit, and pass the Rhode Island Bar Examination as administered by the Board.
- b. Petition for Admission to the Rhode Island Bar.** Every person applying for admission to the Rhode Island Bar upon examination under Article II, Rule 1 shall electronically file, under oath, with the Supreme Court the Petition for Admission to the Rhode Island Bar available on the Rhode Island Supreme Court Attorney Portal (the “RISCAP”) and shall satisfy the Board that he/she has met all requirements set forth in Rule 1 and as further set forth herein.
- i.** Prerequisites for Article II, Rule 1 Applicants. Petitions received from persons who have not first met the following requirements shall be rejected:

- 1) The applicant shall meet the requirements set forth in Article II, Rule 1(a), (b), (c) and (d) of the Supreme Court Rules:
 - (a) *Citizenship*. All applicants shall be a citizens of the United States or legal residents, an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, or an alien otherwise authorized to work lawfully in the United States, of good character.
 - (b) *Age*. All applicants shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
 - (c) *Law Study*. All applicants shall have graduated and received a law degree from a law school accredited and approved by the American Bar Association (ABA) and approved by the Board. By submitting an application, the applicant attests to the fact that he/she has graduated with a Juris Doctor degree from an ABA accredited and approved law school.
 - (d) *Past Bar Examination Results*. No person who has failed five (5) or more bar examinations, whether in Rhode Island or in any combination of states, districts, and territories of the United States, will be permitted to seek admission to the Rhode Island Bar either by transfer of a UBE score or by ~~take~~ taking the Rhode Island Bar Examination, and no special order excepting any such person from this five (5) examination limit will be granted by the Court. Failure to achieve the minimum passing score required by the rules in place at the time of the administration of the ~~Uniform Bar Examination~~ (“UBE”) in any jurisdiction constitutes a failed bar examination for purposes of this rule.

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Section 3. The Board Rules is hereby amended as follows:

4. 3. RULE ~~2(A)~~ 1A APPLICANT - ATTORNEY ADMISSION ON EXAMINATION.

- a. **General.** Article II, Rule ~~2(a)~~ 1A of the Supreme Court Rules provides limited examination requirements for individuals who have been admitted as an attorney of the highest court of any state, district or territory of the United States prior to applying for admission to the Rhode Island Bar upon examination. This Rule of Practice sets forth the rules governing admission to the Rhode Island Bar on examination pursuant to Article II, Rule ~~2(a)~~ 1A.
- b. **Petition for Admission to the Rhode Island Bar.** Every person applying for admission to the Rhode Island Bar upon examination under Article II, Rule ~~2(a)~~ 1A shall electronically file with the Supreme Court a Petition for Admission to the Rhode Island Bar available on RISCAP, under oath, and shall satisfy the Board that he/she has met all requirements set forth in Rule ~~2(a)~~ 1A and further promulgated herein.
- i. Prerequisites for Article II, Rule ~~2(a)~~ 1A Applicants. Petitions received from individuals who have not first met the following requirements shall be rejected:

- 1) *Article II, Rule 1.* The applicant shall meet the requirements set forth in Article II, Rule 1(a), (b) and (d) of the Supreme Court Rules:
 - (a) *Citizenship.* All applicants shall be a citizens of the United States or legal residents, an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, or an alien otherwise authorized to work lawfully in the United States, of good character.
 - (b) *Age.* All applicants shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
 - (c) *Past Bar Examination Results.* No person who has failed five (5) or more bar examinations, whether in Rhode Island or in any combination of states, districts, and territories of the United States, will be permitted to seek admission to the Rhode Island Bar either by transfer of a UBE score or by take taking the Rhode Island Bar Examination, and no special order excepting any such person from this five (5) examination limit will be granted by the Court. Failure to achieve the minimum passing score required by the rules in place at the time of the administration of the UBE in any jurisdiction constitutes a failed bar examination for purposes of this rule.
 - 2) *Legal Experience.* The applicant shall have been engaged in the full-time active practice of law or full-time teaching of law for at least five (5) years of the last ten (10) years immediately preceding the filing of his or her Petition. *See, e.g., In re Stanton*, 828 A.2d 529 (R.I. 2003).
 - (a) *Positions Qualifying as the Practice of Law.* Only employment as an attorney qualifies as the practice of law for admission pursuant to Article II, Rule ~~2(a)~~ 1A, except that full-time employment as a judicial law clerk while licensed to practice law in another jurisdiction and full-time employment as a judicial officer will be considered the practice of law for purposes of Article II, Rule ~~2(a)~~ 1A.
 - (b) *Positions Qualifying as the Teaching of Law.* Only full-time positions teaching law at a law school accredited by the American Bar Association qualify as the teaching of law for admission pursuant to Article II, Rule ~~2(a)~~ 1A.
 - 3) All prerequisites for admission must be satisfied as of the application deadline, must be satisfied throughout the pendency of a Petition for Admission, and must be satisfied as of the applicable application deadline for the next examination if an applicant has deferred his/her Petition or is retaking the examination.
- ii. *Petition.* All Petitions for admission pursuant to Article II, Rule ~~2(a)~~ 1A shall be filed and processed in conformity with Practice Rules 2(b)(ii) - (ix), except that Petitions from persons seeking admission pursuant to Article II, Rule ~~2(a)~~ 1A must be filed with the Supreme Court between July 1 and September 1 of the preceding year in which they intend to take the February examination and between December 1 and February 1 of the year in which they intend to take the July examination.

- c. **Character and Fitness Assessment.** Practice Rule 2(c) shall apply to all applicants seeking admission to the Rhode Island Bar pursuant to Article II, Rule ~~2(a)~~ 1A. Applicants seeking admission pursuant to Article II, Rule ~~2(a)~~ 1A must submit to a character investigation conducted by the NCBE. Rule ~~2(a)~~ 1A applicants who defer their application or who retake the examination shall promptly respond to inquiries from the NCBE regarding their pending investigation.
- d. **Examination.** The Board shall examine applicants seeking admission to the Rhode Island Bar under Article II, Rule ~~2(a)~~ 1A during the regularly scheduled examinations described in Practice Rule 2(d)(i). The examination shall be administered in accordance with the Supreme Court Rules and Practice Rule 2(d), provided that:
 - i. Article II, Rule ~~2(a)~~ 1A applicants shall be required to take only the MPT and MEE portions of the examination;
 - ii. Total Score. The maximum aggregate raw score on the MPT and MEE of each Article II, Rule ~~2(a)~~ 1A applicant shall be scaled in the same manner as applicants who sat for the Rhode Island Bar Examination pursuant to Rule 1. The applicant's written scaled score on the MPT and MEE is the applicant's total score; and
 - iii. Passing Score. A minimum total score of 135 shall be required of each Article II, Rule ~~2(a)~~ 1A applicant to pass the Rhode Island Bar Examination. Article II, Rule ~~2(a)~~ 1A applicants who receive a total score lower than 135 fail the examination. The Board will not entertain waivers of the minimum passing score.
- e. **Examination Results, Retaking the Bar Examination and Failure to Satisfy Requirements for Admission.** Practice Rules 2(e) – (g) shall apply to the examination and admission of applicants seeking admission to the Rhode Island Bar under Article II, Rule ~~2(a)~~ 1A. Applicants seeking admission pursuant to Article II, Rule ~~2(a)~~ 1A must request a supplemental character report from the NCBE for each subsequent examination. Requests for a supplemental report must be received by the applicable application deadline and shall include a separate payment to the NCBE in the amount of the fee for the NCBE supplemental report.

Section 4. The Board Rules is hereby amended as follows:

~~3.~~ 4. RULE 1B APPLICANT – ADMISSION ON TRANSFERRED UBE SCORE.

- a. **General.** Article II, Rule 1B of the Supreme Court Rules, as adopted on September 7, 2018, provided for admission to the Rhode Island Bar upon the transfer of a UBE Score of 276 or higher. On March 25, 2021, Rule 1B was amended to reduce the UBE Score eligible for transfer to Rhode Island to 270 starting with UBE administered in February 2021. Pursuant to Rule 1B, individuals may seek admission to this state's bar by transfer of a ~~Uniform Bar Examination~~ UBE score of 270 or higher. This Rule of Practice sets forth the rules governing admission to the Rhode Island Bar by transfer of a UBE Score pursuant to Article II, Rule 1B.

- b. Petition for Admission to the Rhode Island Bar.** Every person applying for admission to the Rhode Island Bar by transfer of a UBE Score shall electronically file, under oath, with the Supreme Court the Petition for Admission to the Rhode Island Bar available on RISCAP and shall satisfy the Board that he/she has met all requirements set forth in Rule 1B and further promulgated herein.
- i.** Prerequisites for Article II, Rule 1B Applicants. Petitions received from persons who have not first met the following requirements shall be rejected:
- 1)** The applicant shall meet the requirements set forth in Article II, Rule 1(a), (b), (c) and (d) of the Supreme Court Rules:
 - (a) *Citizenship.*** All applicants shall be a citizens of the United States or legal residents, an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, or an alien otherwise authorized to work lawfully in the United States, of good character.
 - (b) *Age.*** All applicants shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
 - (c) *Law Study.*** All applicants shall have graduated and received a law degree from a law school accredited and approved by the American Bar Association (ABA) and approved by the Board. By submitting an application, the applicant attests to the fact that he/she has graduated with a Juris Doctor degree from an ABA accredited and approved law school.
 - (d) *Past Bar Examination Results.*** No person who has failed five (5) or more bar examinations, whether in Rhode Island or in any combination of states, districts, and territories of the United States, will be permitted to seek admission to the Rhode Island Bar either by transfer of a UBE score or by ~~take~~ taking the Rhode Island Bar Examination, and no special order excepting any such person from this five (5) examination limit will be granted by the Court. Failure to achieve the minimum passing score required by the rules in place at the time of the administration of the UBE in any jurisdiction constitutes a failed bar examination for purposes of this rule.
 - 2) *Qualifying UBE Score.*** The applicant shall have earned a minimum score of 270 or higher earned on an administration of the ~~Uniform Bar Examination~~ UBE which occurred within two (2) years of filing his or her Petition. Applicants shall have their official UBE Score Transcript forwarded to the Clerk by the NCBE prior to the filing of a Petition. The Board will not entertain waivers of the minimum UBE score eligible for transfer to Rhode Island or the transfer deadline.

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Section 5. The Board Rules is hereby amended as follows:

5. GENERAL INFORMATION.

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d. Advisory Decisions. The Board does not issue advisory decisions. An applicant's qualifications for admission pursuant to Article II, Rules 1, 1A, or 1B or ~~2(a)~~ will be reviewed only upon the filing of a timely Petition submitted in accordance with the Supreme Court Rules and these Rules of Practice.

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Entered as an Order of this Court this *6th* day of *January 2026*.

/s/

Suttell, C. J.

/s/

Goldberg, J.

/s/

Robinson, J.

/s/

Lynch Prata, J.

/s/

Long, J.