

Supreme Court

In re Amendment to Article IV, Rule 1 :
of the Supreme Court Rules :
(Registration Fee Changes) :

ORDER

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

“Rule 1. Periodic registration of attorneys.— (a) Every person who has been admitted to the bar of Rhode Island and who engages in the practice of law within this State shall on or before July first of every year, or within three (3) months of his or her becoming subject to these rules by admission, upon payment of a registration fee of ~~one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00)~~ one hundred and seventy-five dollars (\$175.00), (payable in full upon registration, or at registrant’s option, in two (2) equal semi-annual installments), file with the Clerk of this court, on a form to be provided by the Clerk, a written statement containing his or her full name and address within the State at which service of papers may be made upon him or her, the date of his or her admission to this court, and such other information as this court may from time to time direct. Effective July 1, 2005, the registration fee for attorneys will be two hundred dollars (\$200.00).

(b) This form will contain a provision whereby the attorneys certify that they have read and are complying with Rule 1.15 of the Rules of Professional Conduct. It shall be the responsibility of each attorney to notify the Clerk of any change in the information previously submitted within thirty (30) days of such change.

(c) Any attorney may advise the Court in writing that he or she desires to assume inactive status and to discontinue the practice of law in this State. Upon the filing of such notice, the attorney shall pay an annual registration fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00). The attorney will no longer be eligible to practice law in this State but shall continue to file annual registration statements for as long as he or she remains inactive.

Upon the filing of the notice that he or she wishes to assume inactive status, an attorney shall be removed from the rolls of those classified as active until and unless he or she requests reinstatement to the active rolls and pays for the year of reinstatement the fee imposed for active attorneys.

(d) The name of any person who has not filed the current annual registration statement shall be removed from the Master Roll of Attorneys thirty (30) days after the due date for such statement. 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.

(e) An attorney whose name has been removed from the Master Roll solely for failure to file the registration statement may be reinstated upon filing the registration statement together with a late fee of ~~two hundred seventy-five dollars (\$275.00)~~ one hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) in addition to the appropriate annual

registration fee, plus reimbursement of the costs of collection, except as hereinafter additionally provided in the case of attorneys practicing law outside this State.

(1) An attorney who has discontinued the practice of law in this State shall notify the Clerk in writing of such fact. Upon the filing of such notice, the attorney shall no longer be eligible to practice law in this State but shall continue to file registration statements for five (5) years thereafter in order that the attorney can be located in the event complaints are made about his or her conduct while he or she 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.

(2) An attorney in the practice of law in another jurisdiction who is removed from the Master Roll for failure to file the annual registration statement required hereunder 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 he or she has been practicing law that (a) he or she is a member in good standing of the bar in such jurisdiction, and (b) that no disciplinary action is pending against him or her in said jurisdiction.

(3) Members of the State and Federal judiciary are exempt from the payment of the registration fee while holding said office.

(4) Any practicing 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.

(5) All funds collected pursuant to this rule shall be deposited in a separate account entitled "~~Rhode Island Supreme Court Attorney Registration Account~~" "Supreme Court Disciplinary Account" and shall be disbursed by the Clerk upon the order of the Chief Justice."

Entered as an Order of this Court this 10th day of *May 2004*.

S/S
Williams, C. J.

S/S
Flanders, J.

S/S
Goldberg, J.

S/S
Flaherty, J.

S/S
Suttell, J.