

In re Article II of the Supreme Court Rules :
(Further Response to COVID-19 – July 2021 :
Rhode Island Bar Examination) :

ORDER

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to create uncertainty for bar applicants and admissions staff. While the hope of vaccination shows a light at the end of the tunnel, given the changing timelines, it is unclear when herd immunity may be achieved. Despite this uncertainty, there is a continued need to admit new members of the bar as soon as possible while also protecting the health of all applicants.

In February 2021, Rhode Island administered its first ever remote bar examination. By all measures, its administration was a resounding success. The National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) has once again announced plans to make the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) available to jurisdictions remotely for July 2021. Just as in February, the remote examination will include a full complement of UBE test materials and will be offered on the dates previously set for the July examination – the last Tuesday and Wednesday of the month. The NCBE will calculate scores and provide score transfer services for the remote UBE.

In light of the success of the remote administration of the bar examination in February 2021 and the continued uncertainty surrounding the virus, the Board of Bar Examiners has once again recommended to the Court that Rhode Island administer the bar examination remotely. The Board recognized that with the changing state of COVID-19 regulations, it would be most prudent to administer the July 2021 Rhode Island bar examination remotely rather than risk the cancellation of an in-person bar examination.

The Court agrees and adopts the recommendation of the Board. Accordingly, the Court orders as follows:

The July 2021 Rhode Island Bar Examination will be administered remotely.

Scores earned on a remote administration of the UBE in July 2021 are transferable to Rhode Island consistent with Court Rules.

Participation in the remote examination is contingent upon compliance with all protocols for the remote examination as set by the Court.

Pending applicants who do not wish to sit for a remote administration of the bar examination may elect to defer to the February 2022 Rhode Island Bar Examination at no cost or to receive a full refund of the petition filing fee.

All other previously imposed filing requirements and deadlines remain in effect.

Entered as an Order of this Court this *9th* day of *April 2021*.

_____/s/
Suttell, C. J.

_____/s/
Goldberg, J.

_____/s/
Robinson, J.

_____/s/
Lynch Prata, J.

_____/s/
Long, J.