**AMENDMENTS TO THE**

**RULES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BAR OF OHIO**

 On July 6, 2010 the Supreme Court of Ohio adopted the following amendments to the Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio (Gov. Bar R. I, Sections 1 and 2) effective August 1, 2010.

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**RULES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BAR**

**RULE I. ADMISSION TO THE PRACTICE OF LAW**

**Section 1. General Requirements.**

 To be admitted to the practice of law in Ohio, an applicant shall satisfy all of the following requirements:

 (A) Be at least twenty-one years of age;

 (B) Have earned a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university in accordance with any of the following:

 (1) Prior to admission to law school;

 (2) Subsequent to admission to law school, through completion of courses and credits other than those received in law school, if the applicant has made a record of academic achievement that is satisfactory to the Court and receives Court approval;

 (3) From participation in a joint bachelor’s/law degree program that has been reviewed and approved by the Court, requires at least seven years of full-time study, and results in the award of both a bachelor’s degree and a law degree;

 (C) Have earned a J.D. or an L.L.B. degree from a law school that was approved by the American Bar Association at the time the degree was earned or, if not located in the United States, from a law school evaluated and approved in accordance with Section 2(C) or Section 9(C)(13) of this rule;

 (D) Prior to taking the Ohio bar examination or being admitted without examination pursuant to Section 9 of this rule, have demonstrated that the applicant possesses the requisite character, fitness, and moral qualifications for admission to the practice of law and have been approved as to character, fitness, and moral qualifications under procedures provided in this rule;

 (E) Have passed both the Ohio bar examination and the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination, or have been approved for admission without examination pursuant to Section 9 of this rule;

 (F) Have taken the oath of office pursuant to Section 8(A) of this rule.

 As used in this section, “accredited college or university” means a college or university approved by one of the following accrediting associations or, if not located in the United States or Canada, a college or university evaluated and approved in accordance with Section 2(C) or Section 9(C)(13) of this rule: Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools/Commission on Higher Education; New England Association of Schools and Colleges--Commission on Institutions of Higher Education; North Central Association of Colleges and Schools; Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges; Southern Association of Colleges and Schools--Commission on Colleges; Western Association of Schools and Colleges--Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges--Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

 **Section 2. Preliminary Registration Requirements.**

 (A) Every applicant who intends to take the Ohio bar examination shall file with the Office of Bar Admissions of the Supreme Court an Application to Register as a Candidate for Admission to the Practice of Law. The applicant shall file the registration application by the fifteenth day of November in the applicant’s second year of law school.

 (B) The registration application shall be on forms furnished by the Office of Bar Admissions and shall include all of the following:

 (1) A certificate from the dean of the law school the applicant is attending, certifying that the applicant has begun the study of law;

 (2) A properly authenticated transcript of college credits or any other documentation deemed necessary by the Office of Bar Admissions to show compliance with Section 1(B) of this rule;

 (3) Fingerprint identification taken by a sheriff, deputy sheriff, municipal police officer, or state highway patrol officer;

 (4) A registration fee of seventy-five dollars;

 (5) A fee in the amount charged by the National Conference of Bar Examiners for its character investigation and report;

 (6) A completed character questionnaire, in duplicate, in the form prescribed by the Board of Commissioners on Character and Fitness;

 (7) Authorization and release forms in the number required by the Office of Bar Admissions.

 (C) If an applicant’s undergraduate or legal education was not received in the United States, an additional fee of one hundred fifty dollars shall accompany the application for the evaluation of the applicant’s education. The Supreme Court shall review the applicant’s education and determine whether the education is equivalent to the education required of applicants educated in the United States. In order to receive a review of education received outside of the United States, an applicant must submit the following documents with the registration application:

 (1) If an applicant’s undergraduate education was not received in the United States, the applicant must submit an education evaluation completed by an education evaluation service approved by the Court. The applicant’s education evaluation from an education evaluation service must show that the applicant has completed at least three years of fulltime post-secondary education in order for the Court to find undergraduate educational equivalence. The Court may find undergraduate equivalence where an applicant’s education evaluation shows that the applicant has completed at least two years of fulltime post-secondary education, provided the applicant also submits an educational evaluation showing that the applicant’s secondary education included study equivalent to one year of undergraduate study. The registration application shall be processed while the applicant’s undergraduate education is evaluated by the Court.

 (2) If an applicant’s legal education was not received in the United States, the applicant must submit an education evaluation completed by an education evaluation service approved by the Court and a properly authenticated transcript showing successful completion of thirty credit hours of courses taken at a law school approved by the American Bar Association. Twenty of the thirty hours of coursework must be chosen from a list of courses specified by the Court; the remaining ten hours of coursework do not have to be chosen from the list of courses. The thirty hours of coursework must be completed within a period not greater than forty-eight calendar months. The applicant’s education evaluation from an education evaluation service must show that the applicant has completed at least three years of fulltime post-secondary formal legal education and received a law degree in order for the Court to find legal educational equivalence. The registration application shall not be processed until the applicant’s legal education is approved by the Court.

 (D) If an applicant does not file a complete registration application on or before the fifteenth day of November in the applicant’s second year of law school, the applicant shall pay an additional late fee of two hundred dollars.

 (E) An applicant may not apply to take the February Ohio bar examination unless the applicant has filed a complete registration application by the fifteenth day of August immediately preceding the February examination. An applicant may not apply to take the July Ohio bar examination unless the applicant has filed a complete registration application by the fifteenth day of January immediately preceding the July examination.

 (F) Until admitted to the practice of law in Ohio, the applicant is under a continuing duty to update the information contained in the registration application, including the character questionnaire, and to report promptly to the Office of Bar Admissions all changes or additions to information in the application.

 (G) Unless the Board of Commissioners on Character and Fitness grants an extension to the applicant, a registration application shall be deemed withdrawn, and the applicant shall no longer be considered a candidate for admission, if either of the following occurs:

 (1) The applicant fails to take the Ohio bar examination within four years after filing the registration application;

 (2) The applicant takes but fails the Ohio bar examination and does not retake one of the four immediately ensuing bar examinations.

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[Effective: February 28, 1972; amended effective October 30, 1972; November 27, 1972; March 19, 1973; November 12, 1973; March 1, 1974; July 8, 1974; April 26, 1976; January 24, 1977; March 9, 1977; August 1, 1977; January 1, 1982; March 9, 1983; July 1, 1983; May 7, 1984; May 28, 1984; December 31, 1984; April 1, 1987; May 6, 1987; January 1, 1989; July 1, 1989; January 1, 1991; February 1, 1991; October 1, 1991; February 1, 1992; May 1, 1992; July 1, 1992; August 1, 1992; January 1, 1993; September 15, 1993; January 1, 1995; May 1, 1997; August 3, 1998; June 1, 2000; October 1, 2000; February 1, 2003; October 1, 2003; February 1, 2007; May 1, 2007; October 1, 2007; January 1, 2008; February 1, 2009; August 1, 2010.]

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**RULE XX. TITLE AND EFFECTIVE DATES**

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**Section 2. Effective Dates.**

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(GGGG) The amendments to Gov. Bar R. I, Sections 1 and 2 adopted by the Supreme Court on July 6, 2010, shall take effect on August 1, 2010.