

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SUPREME COURT
RULES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BAR OF OHIO**

Comments Requested: The Supreme Court of Ohio will accept public comments until July 10, 2026, on the following proposed amendments to the proposed amendments to the Supreme Court Rules of the Government of the Bar of Ohio.

Comments on the proposed amendments should be submitted in writing to: Zach Holscher, Supreme Court of Ohio, 65 South Front Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215, or RuleAmendments@sc.ohio.gov not later than July 10, 2026. Please include your full name and mailing address in any comments submitted by email.

Key to Adopted Amendments:

1. Unaltered language appears in regular type. Example: text
2. Language that has been deleted appears in strikethrough. Example: ~~text~~
3. New language that has been added appears in underline. Example: text

1 **SUPREME COURT RULES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BAR OF OHIO**

2
3 **RULE I. ADMISSION TO THE PRACTICE OF LAW**

4
5 **Section 1. General Requirements.**

6
7 To be admitted to the practice of law in Ohio, an applicant shall satisfy all of the following
8 requirements:

9
10 (A) Be at least twenty-one years of age;

11
12 (B) Have earned a bachelor’s degree or doctoral-level degree from an accredited
13 college or university;

14
15 (C) Have earned a J.D. or an L.L.B. degree from a law school that was approved by
16 ~~the American Bar Association~~ an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department
17 of Education or a state accrediting agency subject to the guidelines established by the Supreme
18 Court of Ohio at the time the degree was earned or, if not located in the United States, from a law
19 school evaluated and approved in accordance with Sections 2(C), 10(C)(12), or 11(B)(7) of this
20 rule;

21
22 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**

23
24 **Section 2. Preliminary Registration Requirements.**

25
26 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**

27
28 (C) If an applicant’s undergraduate or legal education was not received in the United
29 States, an additional fee of one hundred fifty dollars shall accompany the application for the
30 evaluation of the applicant’s education. An applicant’s education shall be reviewed to determine
31 whether the education is equivalent to the education required of applicants educated in the United
32 States. In order to receive a review of education received outside of the United States, an applicant
33 must submit the following documents with the registration application:

34
35 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**

36
37 (2) If an applicant’s legal education was not received in the United States, the
38 applicant must submit an education evaluation completed by an education evaluation service
39 approved by the Court and a properly authenticated transcript showing successful completion of
40 thirty credit hours of courses taken at a law school approved by ~~the American Bar Association~~ an
41 accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education or a state accrediting
42 agency subject to the guidelines established by the Supreme Court of Ohio. Twenty of the thirty
43 hours of coursework must be chosen from a list of courses specified by the Court; the remaining
44 ten hours of coursework do not have to be chosen from the list of courses. The thirty hours of
45 coursework must be completed within a period not greater than forty-eight calendar months. The
46 applicant’s education evaluation from an education evaluation service must show that the applicant

47 has completed at least three years of fulltime post-secondary formal legal education and received
48 a law degree in order for the Court to find legal educational equivalence. The registration
49 application shall not be processed until the applicant’s legal education is approved by the Court.
50

51 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**
52

53 **Section 3. Application for Ohio Bar Examination; Updating Character and**
54 **Fitness Information after the Examination.**
55

56 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**
57

58 (H) As used in this rule:
59

60 (1) “Accredited college or university” means a college or university approved by one
61 of the following accrediting associations or, if not located in the United States or Canada, a college
62 or university evaluated and approved in accordance with Sections 2(C), 10(C)(12), or 11(B)(7) of
63 this rule: Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools/Commission on Higher Education;
64 New England Association of Schools and Colleges--Commission on Institutions of Higher
65 Education; Higher Learning Commission; Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges;
66 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools--Commission on Colleges; Western Association of
67 Schools and Colleges--Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges; and Universities Canada.
68

69 (2) “Three-plus-three program” means an education program requiring six years of
70 full-time study through which an individual earns a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college
71 or university while simultaneously earning a J.D. or an L.L.B. degree from a law school approved
72 by ~~the American Bar Association~~ an accrediting agency recognized by the United States
73 Department of Education or a state accrediting agency subject to the guidelines established by the
74 Supreme Court of Ohio at the time the J.D. or L.L.B. degree is earned.
75

76 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**
77

78 **Section 10. Admission Without Examination.**
79

80 (A) As used in this section:
81

82 (1) “Active practice of law” means one or more of the following:
83

84 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**
85

86 (f) Fulltime employment as a teacher of law at a law school approved by ~~the American~~
87 Bar Association an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education
88 or a state accrediting agency subject to the guidelines established by the Supreme Court of Ohio.
89

90 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**
91

92 **Section 18. Military Spouse Attorney.**

93
94 (A) An applicant may apply for temporary admission to the practice of law in Ohio as
95 a military spouse attorney pursuant to division (B) of this section if all of the following concerning
96 the applicant apply:

97
98 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**

99
100 (3) Has earned a J.D. or an L.L.B. degree from a law school that was approved by ~~the~~
101 ~~American Bar Association~~ an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of
102 Education or a state accrediting agency subject to the guidelines established by the Supreme Court
103 of Ohio at the time the degree was earned or, if not located in the United States, from a law school
104 evaluated and approved in accordance with division (B)(3) of this section;

105
106 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**

107
108 [Effective: February 28, 1972; amended effective October 30, 1972; November 27, 1972; March
109 19, 1973; November 12, 1973; March 1, 1974; July 8, 1974; April 26, 1976; January 24, 1977;
110 March 9, 1977; August 1, 1977; January 1, 1982; March 9, 1983; July 1, 1983; May 7, 1984;
111 May 28, 1984; December 31, 1984; April 1, 1987; May 6, 1987; January 1, 1989; July 1, 1989;
112 January 1, 1991; February 1, 1991; October 1, 1991; February 1, 1992; May 1, 1992; July 1,
113 1992; August 1, 1992; January 1, 1993; September 15, 1993; January 1, 1995; May 1, 1997;
114 August 3, 1998; June 1, 2000; October 1, 2000; February 1, 2003; October 1, 2003; February 1,
115 2007; May 1, 2007; October 1, 2007; January 1, 2008; February 1, 2009; August 1, 2010;
116 January 1, 2013; January 1, 2014, July 1, 2014; January 1, 2015; January 1, 2017; July 1, 2017;
117 September 2, 2019; June 1, 2020; March 2, 2021; September 1, 2021; January 17, 2023; April 1,
118 2024; October 15, 2024; January 31, 2025; _____.]

119
120
121 **RULE II. LIMITED PRACTICE OF LAW BY A LEGAL INTERN**

122
123 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**

124
125 **Section 2. Eligibility.**

126
127 To be eligible for a legal intern certificate, either of the following shall apply:

128
129 (A) The applicant shall be enrolled in a law school approved by ~~the American Bar~~
130 ~~Association~~ an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education or a
131 state accrediting agency subject to the guidelines established by the Supreme Court of Ohio and
132 meet all of the following requirements:

133
134 (1) Have received at least one-third of the total hourly academic credits required for
135 graduation;

136

137 (2) Be approved for a legal intern certificate by the dean of the law school in which the
138 applicant is enrolled;

139
140 (3) Have read and agreed to be bound by this rule, Gov. Bar R. IV, and the Ohio Rules
141 of Professional Conduct as adopted by the Supreme Court.

142
143 (B) The applicant shall be a graduate of a law school approved by ~~the American Bar~~
144 ~~Association~~ an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education or a
145 state accrediting agency subject to the guidelines established by the Supreme Court of Ohio and
146 meet both of the following requirements:

147
148 (1) Have applied to take or has taken and is awaiting the results of the first Ohio bar
149 examination following graduation;

150
151 (2) Have read and agrees to be bound by this rule, Gov. Bar R. IV, and the Ohio Rules
152 of Professional Conduct as adopted by the Supreme Court.

153
154 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**

155
156 **Section 4. Issuance and Duration of Certificate.**

157
158 (A) The Office of Bar Admissions shall issue a legal intern certificate to an applicant
159 who satisfies Sections 2 and 3 of this rule. Unless revoked earlier pursuant to division (B) of this
160 section, the legal intern certificate shall automatically expire upon the occurrence of one of the
161 following:

162
163 (1) On the date, prior to graduation, the legal intern is no longer enrolled in a law school
164 approved by ~~the American Bar Association~~ an accrediting agency recognized by the United States
165 Department of Education or a state accrediting agency subject to the guidelines established by the
166 Supreme Court of Ohio;

167
168 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**

169
170 [Effective: February 28, 1972; amended effective February 12, 1973; January 1, 1979; July 1,
171 1983; January 1, 1992; October 1, 2000; February 1, 2007; May 1, 2007; August 1, 2009; April 1,
172 2024; _____.]

173
174
175 **RULE IX. TEMPORARY CERTIFICATION FOR PRACTICE IN LEGAL**
176 **SERVICES, PUBLIC DEFENDER, AND LAW SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

177
178 **Section 1. Eligibility.**

179
180 A person not admitted to the practice of law in Ohio may become certified to temporarily
181 practice law in this state if that person satisfies all of the following:

182

183 (A) The person has earned a degree from a law school that is accredited by ~~the~~
184 ~~American Bar Association~~ an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of
185 Education or a state accrediting agency subject to the guidelines established by the Supreme Court
186 of Ohio;

187
188 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**
189

190 (E) The person is employed by or associated with a legal services or public defender
191 program that provides legal services solely to indigent clients, or is employed as a supervising
192 attorney in a criminal or poverty law and litigation program administered by an Ohio law school
193 that is accredited by ~~the American Bar Association~~ an accrediting agency recognized by the United
194 States Department of Education or a state accrediting agency subject to the guidelines established
195 by the Supreme Court of Ohio. For purposes of this rule, legal services program shall mean any
196 organization that receives financial assistance from the state public defender pursuant to section
197 120.53 of the Revised Code.

198
199 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**
200

201 [Not analogous to former Rule IX, effective January 1, 1981; amended effective July 2, 1990; July
202 2, 1991; October 1, 2000; October 1, 2003; February 1, 2007; May 1, 2007; January 1, 2008; June
203 1, 2020; April 1, 2024; _____.]
204

205 206 **RULE X. CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION**

207
208 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**
209

210 **Section 5. Allowance of Credit Hours.**

211
212 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**
213

214 (C) *Law school teaching credit.*

215
216 (1) As used in this section, “semester credit hour” means the number of academic
217 credit hours received by a student for successfully completing a specific higher education course.
218

219 (2) The Commission may allow three credit hours for each semester credit hour taught
220 by an adjunct or part-time professor for a course that is part of the curriculum of a J.D., LL.M., or
221 Ph.D. program at a law school accredited by ~~the American Bar Association~~ an accrediting agency
222 recognized by the United States Department of Education or a state accrediting agency subject to
223 the guidelines established by the Supreme Court of Ohio the first time the course is taught by that
224 professor and one-half credit hour for each semester credit hour the course is subsequently taught
225 by that professor.
226

227 (3) The Commission may allow one-half credit hour for each semester credit hour
228 taught by a full-time professor at a law school accredited by ~~the American Bar Association~~ an

229 accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education or a state accrediting
230 agency subject to the guidelines established by the Supreme Court of Ohio for a course that is part
231 of the curriculum of a J.D., LL.M., or Ph.D. program.
232

233 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**
234

235 (E) *Law school course credit.* The Commission may allow three credit hours for each
236 semester credit hour of a course taken as part of the curriculum of a J.D., LL.M., or Ph.D. program
237 at a law school accredited by ~~the American Bar Association~~ an accrediting agency recognized by
238 the United States Department of Education or a state accrediting agency subject to the guidelines
239 established by the Supreme Court of Ohio. Prorated credit may be granted for quarter or trimester
240 hours.
241

242 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**
243

244 **Section 20. Effective Date.**
245

246 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**
247

248 (Insert division letter) The amendments to Section 5 of this rule, adopted by the
249 Supreme Court of Ohio on _____, shall be effective on _____.
250

251 [Effective: July 1, 1988 and January 1, 1989; amended effective January 1, 1989; July 1, 1989;
252 December 15, 1989; May 28, 1990; September 1, 1990; January 1, 1991; February 18, 1991;
253 September 1, 1991; January 1, 1992; July 1, 1992; January 1, 1994; January 1, 1995; January 1,
254 1996; January 1, 1998; November 1, 1998; January 1, 2000; May 8, 2000; July 1, 2001; January
255 21, 2002; July 1, 2002, September 1, 2004, November 7, 2005; November 1, 2007; November 1,
256 2008; December 1, 2011; January 1, 2014; January 1, 2015; July 1, 2017; November 1, 2017;
257 January 1, 2019; July 1, 2019; February 1, 2020; June 1, 2020; August 1, 2022; September 1, 2022;
258 January 1, 2023; March 13, 2024; October 15, 2024; January 1, 2025; _____.]
259
260

261 **RULE XX. TITLE AND EFFECTIVE DATES**
262

263 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**
264

265 **Section 2. Effective Dates.**
266

267 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**
268

269 (Insert division letter) The amendments to Gov.Bar R. I, Sections 1 through 3, 10,
270 18; Gov.Bar R. II, Sections 2 and 4; Gov.Bar. R. IX(1); Gov.Bar. R. X(5); and Appendix I adopted
271 by the Supreme Court on _____, shall take effect on _____.

272 **APPENDIX I: ATTORNEY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION REGULATIONS**

273
274 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**

275
276 **Regulation 400: Hours and Accreditation**

277
278 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**

279
280 **Regulation 409: Self-Study**

281
282 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**

283
284 **409.2(A)** An Electronic Interactive Skill-Based Activity shall be classified as a Self-Study
285 Activity subject to the requirements of Regulation 409.

286
287 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**

288
289 (G) The faculty for an Electronic Interactive Skill-Based Activity utilizing a recorded
290 lecture or demonstration shall satisfy the requirements of Regulation 406(C) and (F). Faculty who
291 provide any performance critique shall have one or more of the following qualifications:

292
293 (1) At least seven years of active professional experience that includes the skill
294 involved in that exercise;

295
296 (2) Specialist certification by an accredited professional organization that includes the
297 skill involved in that exercise;

298
299 (3) Faculty service at an ~~American Bar Association~~ accrediting agency recognized by
300 the United States Department of Education or a state accrediting agency subject to the guidelines
301 established by the Supreme Court of Ohio accredited law school for one or more courses that
302 covers the skill involved in that exercise;

303
304 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**

305
306 **REGULATION 1000: EFFECTIVE DATE**

307
308 **Regulation 1001: Effective Date of Regulations**

309
310 **1001.1(A)** These Regulations shall be effective January 1, 1989.

311
312 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**

313
314 (Insert division letter) Amendments to Regulation 409.2 adopted by the Supreme
315 Court on _____, shall take effect on _____.

316

317 [Effective: January 1, 1989; amended effective December 15, 1989, May 29, 2000, August 7, 2000;
318 July 1, 2001, July 1, 2002, September 1, 2004, November 7, 2005; December 26, 2005; November
319 1, 2007; November 2008; January 1, 2013; January 1, 2014; November 1, 2017; September 1,
320 2018; July 1, 2019; February 1, 2020; August 1, 2022; January 1, 2023; January 1, 2025;
321 _____.]