

The Supreme Court of Ohio

LAW SCHOOL ACCREDITATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

These guidelines (“Guidelines”) are issued by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (“Chief Justice”), pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 of the Ohio Constitution, and apply to the creation, organization, and operation of the Law School Accreditation Advisory Committee. These Guidelines may be amended or waived at the sole discretion of the Chief Justice.

SECTION 1. GENERAL GUIDELINES.

1.01. Creation.

There is hereby created by the Chief Justice the Law School Accreditation Advisory Committee (“Committee”).

1.02. Duties and Authority.

(A) Duties

The Committee shall study the law school accreditation process in Ohio and may make recommendations to the Supreme Court of Ohio (“Court”) regarding actions to amend, add or eliminate elements of such process. This study must include consideration of the impact of Ohio’s accreditation process on Ohio’s law school graduates to sit for the respective bar exams of other states.

(B) Authority

The Committee has no independent policy-setting authority.

(C) Consulting Partner Organizations and Individuals

The Committee may from time to time consult with other partners who are either experts in the topic of accreditation, or who may be impacted by any changes to the accreditation process. These partners include but are not limited to other states with an interest in this topic, Ohio law students, and regulators not already included in the membership of the Committee. The Committee may ask such partners to provide information or presentations at a Committee meeting.

SECTION 2. MEMBERSHIP.

2.01. Committee Membership Persons.

The Committee consists of nine (9) members appointed by the Chief Justice. The Committee members are as follows:

- 1) Two (2) Ohio General Assembly Members;
- 2) One (1) designee of one of Ohio's United States Senators;
- 3) One (1) retired attorney;
- 4) One (1) designee of the Board of the Ohio State Bar Association;
- 5) Two (2) representatives from the nine (9) deans of Ohio's law schools;
- 6) The Deputy Administrative Director, Legal Services of the Supreme Court; and
- 7) The Administrative Director of the Supreme Court of Ohio, who shall chair the Committee.

SECTION 3. TERMS AND VACANCIES.

3.01. Terms.

The terms of all Committee members shall be determined solely by the Chief Justice. The current term of all nine (9) members shall begin on July 17, 2025, and shall expire as directed by the Chief Justice.

3.02. Change of Position, Employment, Affiliation, or Status.

Each Committee member appointed because of the member's applicable elected position, official position, employment, organizational affiliation, or other status, (as described in Section 2.01, above), shall automatically cease to be a member at such time that the member no longer holds such position, employment, affiliation, or status.

3.03. Filling of Vacancies.

Vacancies on the Committee shall be filled in a manner solely determined by the Chief Justice.

SECTION 4. OFFICERS AND STAFF.

4.01. Chairperson.

The Administrative Director shall serve as Chairman of the Committee.

4.02. Staff Liaisons.

The Administrative Director of the Court shall assign two Court employees from the Office of the Chief Legal Officer to serve as staff liaisons to the Committee. The staff liaisons will assist the Committee as necessary in the implementation of its work, but at all times will be considered employees of the Court.

SECTION 5. MEETINGS.

5.01. Manner.

The Committee may meet in person or by telephone or other electronic means available to the Court.

5.02. Frequency and Notice.

The Committee shall meet as often as required to complete its work. The Committee shall meet upon notice by the Chairman.

5.03. Meetings.

(A) Attendance

All Committee meetings shall be open to the public.

(B) Minutes

Minutes shall be kept at each Committee meeting and distributed to the Committee members for review prior to and approval at the next Committee meeting.

5.04. Member Attendance.

(A) Requirement

A Committee member shall make a good faith effort to attend each Committee meeting.

(B) Participation by Telephone or Other Electronic Means

A Committee member who is unable to attend a meeting due to an unavoidable conflict may request that the Chairman allow the member to participate by telephone or other electronic means available to the Court. A Committee member participating in this manner is considered present for meeting attendance, quorum, and voting purposes.

(C) Replacement Designee

A Committee member may designate a replacement for participation in or voting at meetings as necessary but only with prior approval by the Chairman of the Committee.

(D) Nonattendance

If a Committee member misses three consecutive meetings, the chairperson or staff liaison

may recommend to the Chief Justice that the member relinquish the member's position on the Committee.

5.05. Quorum.

A quorum exists when a majority of Committee members is present for the meeting, including those members participating by telephone or other electronic means.

5.06. Actions.

At any Committee meeting at which a quorum is present, the Committee members may take action by an affirmative vote of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of members (i.e., no less than 6 members).

5.07. Public Records.

The Committee's documents, including all correspondence, meeting materials, and minutes are generally public records barring an appropriate exception under applicable law and will be available upon a lawful request.

SECTION 6. MISCELLANEOUS GUIDELINES.

6.01. Code of Ethics.

A Committee member shall comply with the requirements of the Court's *Code of Ethics for Court Appointees*. The staff liaisons shall provide each Committee member with a copy of the code following the member's appointment to the Committee.

6.02. Reports.

(A) Progress or draft report

The Committee may issue a progress or draft report as it believes necessary to facilitate the work of the Committee and to communicate the nature of its work to the public and various constituencies of the Court.

(B) Final report and recommendations

The Committee shall work promptly to issue a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Chief Justice and the Court within a reasonable time.

6.03. Work Product.

The work product of the Committee is the sole property of the Court.

6.04. Budget.

The budget of the Committee shall be set by the Court through its internal budget process and as implemented by the Court office, section, or program through which the Committee operates. The Committee has no authority to set its own budget.

6.05. Compensation.

A Committee member serves without compensation.

6.06. Reimbursement of Expenses.

A Committee member shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in service to the Committee as permitted by the Court's Guidelines for Travel by Court Appointees.

6.07. Dissolution.

The Committee shall be disbanded solely upon the discretion of the Chief Justice.

Effective Date: July 17, 2025