

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

The following amendments to the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio (Gov. Bar R. I, Sections 9, 11, and 17 through 19) were adopted by the Supreme Court of Ohio. The history of these amendments is as follows:

February 11, 2019	Published for public comment
June 11, 2019	Final adoption by conference
September 2, 2019	Effective date of amendments

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

SUPREME COURT RULES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BAR OF OHIO

RULE I. ADMISSION TO THE PRACTICE OF LAW

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

Section 9. Admission Without Examination.

(A) An applicant may apply for admission to the practice of law in Ohio without examination if all of the following apply:

(1) The applicant ~~has taken and passed a bar examination and~~ has been admitted as an attorney at law in the highest court of another state or in the District of Columbia, which jurisdiction shall be considered the jurisdiction from which the applicant seeks admission;

(2) The applicant has engaged in the practice of law, provided, however, that the practice of law:

(a) Was engaged in subsequent to the applicant's admission as an attorney at law in another jurisdiction;

(b) Occurred for at least five full years out of the last ten years prior to the applicant's submission of an application pursuant to division (C) of this section; and

(c) Was engaged in on a fulltime basis;

(3) The applicant has not taken and failed an Ohio bar examination within the past five years;

(4) The applicant has not engaged in the unauthorized practice of law;

(5) The applicant is a citizen or a resident alien of the United States;

(6) The applicant satisfies the general admission requirements of Section 1(A) to (C) of this rule;

(7) If applicable, the applicant has registered pursuant to Gov. Bar R. VI, Section 3.

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

(D) The Office of Bar Admissions shall refer the application and the report of the National Conference of Bar Examiners to the regional or local bar association admissions committee in accordance with Section 11 of this rule unless certain criteria are met, as established by the Board of Commissioners on Character and Fitness. The applicant shall be reviewed and

approved as to character, fitness, and moral qualifications in accordance with the procedures provided in Sections 11, if applicable and 12 of this rule.

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

Section 11. Character Investigation by Admissions Committees.

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

(C)(1) Upon receipt of an applicant's complete Application to Register as a Candidate for Admission to the Practice of Law filed under Section 2 of this rule or, if applicable, Application for Admission to the Practice of Law Without Examination filed under Section 9 of this rule, the Office of Bar Admissions shall forward one copy of the applicant's character questionnaire to the National Conference of Bar Examiners for a character investigation and report. Upon receipt of this report, the Office of Bar Admissions shall forward the report and the applicant's character questionnaire to one of the following admissions committees:

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

Section 17. RESERVED

Section 18. RESERVED

Section 19. Practice Pending Admission during Admission without Examination Process.

(A) An applicant who has a completed Application for Admission to the Practice of Law without Examination on file with the Office of Bar Admissions pursuant to Section 9 of this rule may apply to the Office of Bar Admissions to practice pending admission during the admission without examination process pursuant to division (A)(4) of this section. Upon acceptance of the Application to Practice Pending Admission, the applicant may provide legal services in Ohio for no more than three hundred sixty-five days from the acceptance of the Application to Practice Pending Admission, unless that time period is extended by the Office of Bar Admissions, provided that the applicant meets all the following requirements:

(1) Is not disbarred or suspended from the practice of law or has not resigned from the practice of law with disciplinary action pending in any jurisdiction and is not subject to a pending formal disciplinary proceeding in any jurisdiction;

(2) Is admitted as an attorney at law in the highest court of another state or in the District of Columbia, is on active attorney status in at least one jurisdiction, and is in good standing in each jurisdiction in which the applicant is admitted to practice law;

(3) Has not previously been denied admission to practice in Ohio or failed the Ohio bar examination in the past five years;

(4) Submits within ninety days of providing legal services in Ohio a complete Application for Admission without Examination in accordance with Section 9 of this rule and on forms furnished by the Office of Bar Admissions. An applicant who submits a completed application after the ninety days may petition the Office of Bar Admissions to waive this provision for good cause;

(5) Reasonably expects to fulfill all of the requirements for admission without examination pursuant to Section 9 of this rule;

(6) Associates with an active Ohio lawyer who is admitted to practice in Ohio, is in good standing, and has agreed to associate with the applicant, unless the applicant files an affidavit on a form furnished by the Office of Bar Admissions affirming that during the application process the applicant will only practice the law of the jurisdiction in which the applicant is already admitted;

(7) Submits to the Office of Bar Admissions an affidavit attesting that the applicant has read and agrees to be bound by the Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct.

(B) Upon accepting an Application for Practice Pending Admission, the Office of Bar Admissions shall forward the application to the Office of Attorney Services, which shall issue the applicant an Ohio attorney registration number and designate the applicant as "Practice Pending Admission." The Office of Attorney Services shall notify the Office of Disciplinary Counsel that the applicant has been granted the status of "Practice Pending Admission."

(C) The applicant shall immediately notify the Office of Disciplinary Counsel and the Office of Bar Admissions if the applicant becomes subject to criminal charges or becomes subject to a disciplinary investigation or disciplinary sanction in any jurisdiction at any time during the practice authorized by this rule. The Supreme Court shall consider this information when determining whether to approve the applicant's Application for Admission to the Practice of Law without Examination.

(D) The authority of an applicant to practice law pursuant to this section shall terminate immediately upon the occurrence of any of the following:

(1) The time period authorized by division (A) of this section has expired and no extension has been granted;

(2) The applicant withdraws the applicant's Application for Admission to the Practice of Law without Examination;

(3) The Application for Admission to the Practice of Law without Examination is disapproved;

(4) If required pursuant to division (A)(6) of this section, the applicant fails to remain associated with an active Ohio attorney in good standing;

(5) The applicant is disbarred, suspended, or has resigned from the practice of law with disciplinary action pending in any jurisdiction in which the applicant is authorized to practice;

(6) The applicant fails to comply with the notification requirements of division (C) of this section.

(E) Upon the termination of authority to practice in Ohio pursuant to division (D) of this section, the applicant shall not undertake any new representation that would require the applicant to practice law in Ohio and immediately shall do all of the following:

(1) Cease the practice of law in Ohio and withdraw from litigation pending in Ohio courts;

(2) Notify all clients being represented in pending matters and opposing counsel or co-counsel of the termination of authority to practice pursuant to this section;

(3) Take all other necessary steps to protect the interests of clients.

(F) Upon the termination of the applicant's authority to practice under this section, the Office of Bar Admissions shall immediately notify the applicant, the Office of Attorney Services, and the Office of Disciplinary Counsel that the authority granted by this section has terminated.

[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; January 1, 2013; January 1, 2014; July 1, 2014; January 1, 2015; January 1, 2017; July 1, 2017; September 2, 2019.]

RULE XX. TITLE AND EFFECTIVE DATES

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

Section 2. Effective Dates.

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

(Insert division letter) The amendments to Gov. Bar R. I, Sections 9, 11, and 17 through 19, adopted by the Supreme Court on June 11, 2019, shall be effective September 2, 2019.