

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How is COVID-19 Affecting the Office of Bar Admissions?

(Updated April 17, 2020)

Will the July 2020 Georgia bar examination be postponed due to the coronavirus?

Yes. The Supreme Court of Georgia has rescheduled the exam previously scheduled for July 28-29, 2020, for September 9-10, 2020.

Will the deadlines to apply for the September bar exam be the same as they were for the July bar exam?

Yes. The regular filing period for the September 2020 Georgia bar examination closes at 4:00 p.m. on June 3, 2020. The late filing period opens at 4:01 p.m. on June 3, 2020 and closes at 4:00 p.m. on July 6, 2020.

Will I be charged a \$200 late fee if I file an application to sit for the September 2020 exam during the late filing period?

Yes. The \$200 late fee will apply to all applications to sit for the September bar exam filed after 4:00 p.m. on June 3, 2020. The late filing period closes at 4:00 p.m. on July 6, 2020.

Has the deadline for filing Petitions for Testing Accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or requests for administrative accommodations been extended?

Yes. Some applicants interested in seeking testing accommodations pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act or administrative accommodations are having difficulty obtaining required documents from medical and professional offices that are closed or have limited staff working remotely. Due to this difficulty and because the July 28-29, 2020 exam has been postponed until September 9-10, 2020, the Board has extended the deadline for submitting Petitions for Testing Accommodations and requests for administrative accommodations for the September 2020 bar exam to June 1, 2020.

Where will the September 2020 Georgia bar examination be held?

The September 2020 bar exam will be held at the Georgia International Convention Center in College Park, Georgia.

Will everyone who applies for the September 2020 Georgia bar examination be allowed to sit for the exam?

For the health and safety of both applicants and staff members, the Board of Bar Examiners will comply with all local, state, and federal social distancing restrictions in its administration of the September 2020 exam. It is too soon to tell whether the Georgia International Convention Center will be large enough to accommodate every applicant who applies to sit for the September 2020 bar exam if social distancing restrictions are in place at the time of the exam. The Board is committed to offering the test to as many qualified applicants as possible and will be carefully considering all options as September approaches. Please monitor the Office of Bar Admissions website, www.gabaradmissions.org, for any updates.

If there is a limit to the number of applicants allowed to sit for the September 2020 Georgia bar exam, how will applicants be prioritized?

If it becomes necessary to restrict the number of applicants allowed to sit for the September 2020 bar exam, the Board will prioritize applications based on the date the bar application was submitted to the Office of Bar Admissions.

What happens if I submit an application to sit for the September 2020 bar exam and pay the required fee but am not allowed to sit for the exam?

If a decision is made to restrict the number of applicants allowed to sit for the September bar exam, fees paid to the Board of Bar Examiners for that exam will be refunded or credited towards the February 2021 bar exam. National Conference of Bar Examiner charges, laptop registration fees, and convenience fees are not refundable.

Will I be entitled to a refund if I submit an application to sit for the September 2020 bar exam and pay the fees but decide to withdraw my bar application?

Under Part B, Section 3, of the Rules Governing Admission to the Practice of Law, an applicant who withdraws a bar application not less than fourteen days prior to an examination shall be refunded 50% of the bar application fee paid. National Conference of Bar Examiner charges, laptop registration fees, and convenience fees are not

refundable. See Part B, Section 3, of the Rules Governing Admission to the Practice of Law in Georgia for specific information about withdrawing a bar application.

FAQs Related to Provisional Admission to the Practice of Law in Georgia

How do I apply for Provisional Admission to the Practice of Law?

To apply for provisional admission, an applicant who has received certification of fitness to practice law from the Board to Determine Fitness of Bar Applicants and who meets all other eligibility requirements must submit an Application for Provisional Admission, along with all other documents required by the Board of Bar Examiners, to the Office of Bar Admissions. Once the Board of Bar Examiners determines the applicant meets all eligibility requirements, it will issue to the applicant a Certificate for Provisional Admission. For more information about provisional admission, please see the Supreme Court's April 17, 2020 order, *In Re: Provisional Admission to the Practice of Law in Georgia*.

How is Provisional Admission different than the Student Practice Rule (Supreme Court Rules 91-96)?

The Student Practice Rule authorizes properly qualified and supervised second and third year law students to represent and appear on behalf of units of government and persons unable to afford legal services as if admitted and licensed to practice law in Georgia. Certification under the Student Practice Rule automatically expires once a student graduates from or is no longer enrolled in law school. Provisional admission allows recent law graduates and licensed attorneys from other jurisdictions who recently moved to Georgia and apply for admission by examination to practice law under the supervision of a licensed Georgia lawyer pending receipt of their bar examination results.

How is Provisional Admission different than the Graduate Practice Rule (Supreme Court Rules 97-103)?

The newly adopted provisional admission certificate expands the length and scope of the former Graduate Practice Rule.

Can I continue to practice under the Graduate Practice Rule if I was certified under those rules prior to June 1, 2020?

Yes. Persons certified to practice under the former Graduate Practice Rule prior to June 1, 2020 may continue to do so until their eligibility to practice under those rules expires or is otherwise terminated.

Am I eligible for provisional admission if I do not have a job offer?

Your eligibility to receive a Certificate of Provisional Admission does not depend on whether you have an offer for a legal job in Georgia. See Part One, Sections 1-1 and 1-2 of the Supreme Court's Provisional Admission Order. However, you will be required to submit to the State Bar of Georgia, at the time of registration, the declaration of an eligible Georgia lawyer attesting that the lawyer is eligible, willing, and able to supervise you in the practice of law. See Part Two, Section 2-4. See also Part Three, Section 3-2 (a).

I am an LL.M. graduate from an ABA approved law school who meets all educational requirements to sit for the Georgia bar exam. Am I eligible for provisional admission?

Yes, a person who is awarded, by a law school fully approved by the American Bar Association, an LL.M. for the Practice of Law in the United States in a degree program that meets all of the Board's requirements may be eligible for provisional admission, assuming all other eligibility requirements are met. Please see Part B, Section 4 (c), of the Rules Governing Admission to the Practice of Law for specific information about eligibility to sit for the Georgia bar exam as a foreign educated (LL.M.) applicant.

Are there any available resources through the State Bar of Georgia that will assist me in finding or matching me with a supervisory lawyer?

Currently, there are no available resources through the State Bar. We encourage you to reach out to the appropriate administrators at your law school as they may be able to assist you in securing a supervisory attorney.

In what type of employment can I use a Certificate of Provisional Admission?

A person provisionally admitted to the practice of law may engage in the practice of law as a public or private lawyer subject to the limitations set out in Part Three of the Supreme Court's Provisional Admission Order.

What are the limitations on lawyer activities under a Certificate of Provisional Admission?

A person provisionally admitted may engage in the practice of law, including, but not limited to, appearing in courts of record, arbitration proceedings, and other judicial and quasi-judicial proceedings, drafting pleadings and other legal documents and instruments, representing clients in settlement discussions and other negotiations, and providing counsel to clients.

If I am licensed to practice law in a jurisdiction which has reciprocity with Georgia for bar admissions purposes, will time spent practicing law under the authority of the Court's Provisional Admission Order count as time spent primarily engaged in the active practice of law for purposes of Admission on Motion under Part C, Section 2 (e), of the Rules Governing Admission to the Practice of Law in Georgia?

Yes.