



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

Atlanta July 9, 2015

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

The following order was passed:

It is ordered that the Rules Governing Admission to the Practice of Law, Part B, Section 2 (b) and (c) (Applications for Examinations) and Section 6 (Examinations) be amended; that Section 8 (Grading of the Examination and Notification of Results) be revised by adding new subsection (e); and that Part C, Section 2 (b) (Eligibility) be amended, such that the amended rules, effective July 9, 2015, will read as follows:

PART B BOARD OF BAR EXAMINERS

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Section 2. Applications for Examinations

(a) An application to take the February administration of the Georgia Bar Examination must be filed with the Office of Bar Admissions not later than the first Wednesday of the preceding January; an application to take the July administration of the Georgia Bar Examination must be filed with the Office of Bar Admissions not later than the first Wednesday of the preceding June. However, any person who was unsuccessful on any examination shall be allowed ten business days from the date of the general announcement of examination results in which to file an application to take the next examination if such announcement falls on, after or within five business days prior to the application deadline provided above, and in those instances where the Board to Determine Fitness of Bar Applicants certifies an applicant as fit to practice law after the deadline for filing an application to take the examination as described above, the applicant shall be allowed ten business days from the date of his or her notification of certification in which to file an application to take the examination.

(b) Applications to take the bar examination shall be filed with the Office of Bar Admissions on a form prescribed by the Board of Bar Examiners and shall be accompanied by a fee of \$350 payable to the Board of Bar Examiners and an additional charge prescribed by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE). **Prior to filing such application, each applicant must obtain from the Board to Determine Fitness of Bar Applicants a Certification of Fitness to Practice Law. An applicant will not be allowed to file an application or take the examination who has not first received such a certification.**

Further, evidence that the applicant meets the educational requirements set forth in these **Rules** must be submitted contemporaneously with his or her application.

(c) All fees for the Multistate Bar Examination or the Multistate Performance Test shall be paid by the applicant to the Board of Bar Examiners and will be remitted to the NCBE.

(d) An applicant who is unsuccessful on an examination may file an application to take a subsequent bar examination without obtaining a new Certification of Fitness to Practice Law from the Board to Determine Fitness of Bar Applicants if the certification has not expired. Further, applicants who wish to take a subsequent examination need not resubmit evidence of meeting the educational requirements set forth in these **Rules**.

(e) An applicant who fails to file in a timely manner an application to take the bar examination or fails to submit charges to the NCBE as provided above shall nevertheless be permitted to take the examination if, within 30 days of the deadline as provided above, he or she files an application to do so and pays a late fee of \$200 (in addition to the regular fee prescribed by these **Rules**) and submits all applicable charges to the NCBE.

Section 6. Examinations

(a) The Board of Bar Examiners shall conduct two examinations each year, each of which shall be held in Atlanta or such other location as the Board may designate at least 60 days in advance of the examination. Each shall be conducted on any two or three consecutive days and may be scheduled so as to

coincide with the administration of multistate examinations prepared by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE).

(b) The exam shall consist of three parts: (1) four essay questions prepared and graded by the Board of Bar Examiners; (2) the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) prepared and graded by NCBE; and (3) the Multistate Performance Test (MPT) prepared by the NCBE and graded by the Board of Bar Examiners.

(c) Essay questions prepared by the Board of Bar Examiners shall be drawn from the following list of subjects: Business Organizations; Constitutional Law; Contracts; Criminal Law and Procedure; Evidence; Family Law; Federal Practice and Procedure; Georgia Practice and Procedure; Non-Monetary Remedies; Professional Ethics; Property; Torts; Trusts, Wills and Estates; and the Uniform Commercial Code (Articles 2, 3 & 9).

(d) The MBE shall consist of 200 multiple choice questions in the following seven substantive areas of law: Civil Procedure; Constitutional Law; Contracts; Criminal Law; Evidence; Real Property; and Torts.

(e) The MPT shall consist of two performance items, and the areas of law may involve any subject matter whether covered in the essay questions, MBE or otherwise.

(f) Further, the Board of Bar Examiners shall require each applicant to pass the separately administered Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE) with a scaled score of 75 or greater prior to certifying the applicant as eligible for admission to the practice of law.

(g) Copies of the MBE and the MPT shall not be made public in any manner unless authorized by the NCBE. Copies of the essay questions prepared by the Board of Bar Examiners may be made public in such manner as deemed proper by said Board.

Section 8. Grading of the Examination and Notification of Results

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(e) An applicant who achieves a passing score on the Georgia Bar Examination but who does not become admitted to the practice of law in Georgia

within three (3) years of the general release of grades for the examination for which the applicant sat shall be required to sit for and pass another Georgia Bar Examination in order to be eligible for admission.

PART C

ADMISSION ON MOTION WITHOUT EXAMINATION

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Section 2. Eligibility

In order to petition the Board of Bar Examiners to be admitted without examination, an attorney licensed in a state other than Georgia must meet the following eligibility criteria. The attorney:

- (a) Must meet the educational eligibility requirements established in Part B, Section 4 of these **Rules**, including holding a first professional degree in law (JD or LL.B) from a law school approved by the American Bar Association;
- (b) Has been admitted by examination to membership in the bar of the highest court of another United States jurisdiction which has reciprocity for bar admissions purposes with the State of Georgia; provided, however, that if the former jurisdiction of the applicant permits the admission of Georgia judges and lawyers upon motion but that jurisdiction's rules are more stringent and exacting and contain other limitations, restrictions and conditions, the admission of the applicant from that jurisdiction shall be governed by the same rules that would apply to an applicant from Georgia seeking admission to the Bar in the applicant's former jurisdiction;
- (c) Has never been denied certification of fitness to practice law in Georgia or any other state;
- (d) Has never taken and failed the Georgia Bar Examination or the Georgia Attorneys' Examination;
- (e) Has been primarily engaged in the active practice of law for five of the seven years immediately preceding the date upon which the application is filed;

(f) Is currently or resigned while in good professional standing in every jurisdiction in which the applicant has been licensed to practice law;

(g) Must receive Certification of Fitness to Practice Law in Georgia from the Board to Determine Fitness of Bar Applicants;

(h) Must state that he or she intends to engage in the practice of law in Georgia;

(I) Must state that he or she has not engaged in the unauthorized practice of law in Georgia.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA
Clerk's Office, Atlanta

I certify that the above is a true extract from the minutes of the Supreme Court of Georgia.

Witness my signature and the seal of said court hereto affixed the day and year last above written.

 Clerk