

FILED

March 1, 2021

**OFFICE OF
APPELLATE COURTS**

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

ADM10-8008

**ORDER PROMULGATING AMENDMENTS TO THE
RULES FOR ADMISSION TO THE MINNESOTA BAR**

The Minnesota State Board of Law Examiners filed a petition on September 24, 2020, proposing amendments to Rules 4 and 10 of the Rules for Admission to the Bar, which establish eligibility for foreign-educated graduates to be admitted to the Minnesota bar. We opened a public comment period on the Board's proposed amendments. The Minnesota State Bar Association filed a statement in support of the Board's proposed amendments, stating among other points that the amendments will enhance the diversity of Minnesota's legal profession and will adequately protect the public. Attorney Inti Martinez-Aleman filed a statement opposing the Board's proposed amendments, asserting among other points that the Board's proposal is underclusive and does not sufficiently advance the interests of the public or foreign-educated graduates.

We have carefully considered the Board's proposal, including the study and review the Board conducted. We have also carefully considered the suggestion by attorney Martinez-Aleman, to require the Board to advance a broader, more thorough, proposal that will expand the eligibility criteria for foreign-educated graduates. We conclude that the Board's proposed amendments should be adopted. In reaching this conclusion, we note that the Board continues to study how to balance the education standards for admission to the bar with the accreditation standards for LL.M programs. The Board also continues to review admissions standards in

light of the on-going study by the National Conference of Bar Examiners regarding the bar examination, in particular with respect to any impact on Minnesota's score for the Uniform Bar Examination.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the attached amendments to the Rules for Admission to the Bar are prescribed and promulgated as shown below. The amendments are effective as of May 1, 2021.

Dated: March 1, 2021

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lorie S. Gildea".

Lorie S. Gildea
Chief Justice

AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES FOR ADMISSION TO THE BAR

[Note: In the following amendments, deletions are indicated by a line drawn through the words and additions are indicated by a line drawn under the words.]

Rule 4. General Requirements for Admission

A. Eligibility for Admission. The applicant has the burden to prove eligibility for admission by providing satisfactory evidence of the following:

- (1) Age of at least 18 years;
- (2) Good character and fitness as defined by these Rules;
- (3) ~~Either~~ One of the following:
 - (a) Graduation with a J.D. or LL.B. degree from a law school that is provisionally or fully approved by the American Bar Association; ~~or~~
 - (b) (i) a bachelor's degree from an institution that is accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education or foreign equivalent;
 - (ii) a J.D. degree or equivalent from a law school attended following completion of undergraduate studies; ~~located within any state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia~~;
 - (iii) ~~and that~~ the applicant has been licensed to practice law in any state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia in 60 of the previous 84 months; and
 - (iv) the applicant has been engaged, as principal occupation, in the practice of law for 60 of the previous 84 months in one or more of the activities listed in Rule 7A(1)(c); or
- (c) the applicant has been licensed to practice law in any state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia for at least 10 years.
- (4) Passing score on the written examination under Rule 6 or qualification under Rules 7A, 7B, 7C, 8, 9, or 10. An applicant eligible under Rule 4A(3)(b) but not under Rule 4A(3)(a) or 4A(3)(c) must provide satisfactory evidence of a passing score on the written examination under Rule 6 and is not eligible for admission under Rules 7A, 7B, 7C, 8, 9, or 10;
- (5) A scaled score of 85 or higher on the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE); and
- (6) Not currently suspended or disbarred from the practice of law in another jurisdiction or any foreign jurisdiction.

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RULE 10. ADMISSION BY HOUSE COUNSEL LICENSE

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B. Eligibility. A lawyer licensed in another jurisdiction or the holder of a temporary house counsel license issued pursuant to Rule 9B or 9C, who intends to practice in Minnesota for more than 12 months, may apply for a house counsel license when the lawyer:

* * *

(3) Complies with the eligibility provisions of Rule 4A(1), (2), (3)(a) or (c), (4), (5), and (6).

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