

IN THE SUPREME COURT, STATE OF WYOMING

October Term, A.D. 2009

In the Matter of the Amendments to the)
Rules and Procedures Governing)
Admission to the Practice of Law)

**ORDER ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES AND PROCEDURES
GOVERNING ADMISSION TO THE PRACTICE OF LAW**

This matter came before the Court upon a recommendation from the Wyoming State Board of Law Examiners. The Board has recommended amendments to Rules 101, 204, 211, and 305 of the Rules and Procedures Governing Admission to the Practice of Law. The Board has also recommended that Rule 215 be renumbered as Rule 110 and amended. After a careful review of the proposed amendments to the rules, this Court finds that the proposed amendments should be adopted. It is, therefore,

ORDERED that the amendments to the Rules and Procedures Governing Admission to the Practice of Law, as described above and attached hereto, be and hereby are adopted by the Court to be effective April 1, 2010; and it is further

ORDERED that this order and those amendments be published in the advance sheets of the Pacific Reporter and in the Wyoming Court Rules Volume. This order shall also be made available online at this Court's website, <http://www.courts.state.wy.us>. The amendments shall thereafter be spread at length upon the journal of this Court.

DATED this 21st day of January, 2010.

BY THE COURT:

BARTON R. VOIGT
Chief Justice

Rules and Procedures Governing Admission to the Practice of Law

Rule 104. Records.

(b) Information and documents obtained by the Board and the Committee pursuant to their investigations and relevant to the requirements of the Board shall be retained by the Bar and shall be confidential, subject to the following exceptions:

(4) The name, address, date of birth, ~~and~~ social security number and application status of each applicant may be furnished to the National Conference of Bar Examiners for dissemination to the bar admissions authority of any United States jurisdiction upon request;

(5) Information may also be released to the National Conference of Bar Examiners, Counsel for the Bar, any board or committee of the Bar and any board or committee of another state bar as the Board deems advisable;

(6) Information and records may be disclosed as provided by order of the Supreme Court;

(7) Exam information shall be released upon request to the law school from which the applicant graduated following the administration of each bar exam. This information shall include: student name, pass/fail status on the bar exam, and the number of times the applicant has taken the Wyoming bar exam;

(8) All other information provided by or obtained with respect to an applicant for admission on motion or to sit for a bar examination, including examination results, except as specifically provided for herein, shall be considered confidential and privileged.

Rule 204. Examinations.

(a) The Board shall conduct two examinations each year, each of which shall be held in ~~Laramie, Wyoming~~ or such ~~other~~ location as the Board may designate at least 90 days in advance of the examination. Each shall be conducted so as to coincide with the administration of the Multistate Bar Examination prepared by the National Conference of Bar Examiners.

Rule 211. Examination Scores and Notification of Results.

(g) The Board shall notify the Supreme Court of the results of the examination upon completion of the grading of the essay part of the exam and receipt of results from the MBE and the MPRE from the respective reporting agencies. The Supreme Court shall notify each bar applicant whether the applicant passed the examination as promptly as feasible, but may withhold

notification to an applicant in the event of a continuing or incomplete character and fitness review. Applicant grades shall not be disclosed to any person other than the applicant except that: (1) upon written request of an applicant the Board may disclose the applicant's scale and raw MBE scores to the bar examining authority of any United States jurisdiction; (2) the Board may compile and disseminate passage rate reports as directed or approved by the Supreme Court; and (3) upon request, the Board shall provide to the National Conference of Bar Examiners and the dean of the applicant's law school, or his/her designee, statistical detail for each applicant taking the Wyoming Bar exam. This statistical detail shall include: applicant name, pass/fail status on the bar exam, and the number of times the applicant has taken the Wyoming bar exam. The applicant's law school shall maintain the confidential nature of the exam information except for release of aggregated exam statistics for ABA-accreditation purposes.

Rule 215 110. Attorney's Oath Form: Entry on Minutes; Time Limit on Admission.

(a) Following the order of the Supreme Court admitting the applicant to the Bar with authority to practice as an attorney and counselor at law in the Supreme Court and all courts of the State of Wyoming, the candidate shall make the following oath:

"I _____, do solemnly swear that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the State of Wyoming, and that I will faithfully and honestly and to the best of my ability discharge the duties of an Attorney and Counselor at Law."

The oath may be taken in open court or in chambers or, if the applicant resides outside the state, before any officer authorized to administer oaths. The completed oath shall be entered on the minutes of the ~~court as provided above~~ Supreme Court.

(b) The completed attorney's oath must be filed with the Clerk of the Supreme Court no more than ninety days after the date of the Supreme Court's order admitting the applicant to the Bar. Except as provided below, failure to timely satisfy the provision of this rule shall require an applicant to recommence the application process including a new application, payment of fees, a character and fitness investigation and retaking of the Bar Examination, if applicable.

An applicant who fails to take and file the oath within ninety days from the date of the Supreme Court's order may, for up to 12 months from the date of the Supreme Court's order admitting the applicant to the Bar, file an affidavit with the Board of Law Examiners explaining the cause of the delay. Upon consideration of the affidavit, the Board may, for good cause shown, recommend to the Supreme Court that the applicant be permitted to file the oath late or recommend to the Supreme Court that the applicant not be permitted to file the oath late.

Rule 305. Reviews of Applicants for Admission on Motion.

(a) The Board shall meet to recommend applicants for admission on motion twice yearly, as determined by the Board in February and July, in conjunction with the administration of the Bar Examination. The questionnaire application and affidavit prescribed by the Board must be received together with all supporting data, including the request for the character report from the National Conference of Bar Examiners. ~~and~~ The application and all necessary fees, ~~and the character report by the National Conference of Bar Examiners~~ must be ~~completed~~ filed with the Court by the 15th day of April, to be admitted ~~in~~ with the July examination applicants or by the 15th day of November, to be admitted ~~in~~ with the February examination applicants.
