



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

Atlanta February 21, 2014

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 (Board of Bar Examiners), Section 4 (Educational Requirements) be amended by adding new subsection (c), redesignating subsection (c) as new subsection (d), and amending new subsection (d), such that the amended rules, effective February 21, 2014, will read as follows:

PART B BOARD OF BAR EXAMINERS

Section 4. Educational Requirements

The educational requirements to take the bar examination are as follows:

- (a) (1) Prior to taking the bar examination, an applicant must have been awarded an undergraduate degree (BA, BS, BBA or their equivalent) by an institution of higher learning which has been accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

- (2) An applicant who has been awarded an undergraduate degree (BA, BS, BBA or their equivalent) by an institution of higher learning which has not been accredited by an accrediting body recognized by CHEA shall be considered as satisfying the undergraduate educational requirement of these **Rules** if the applicant has received the first professional degree in law (JD or LLB) from a law school approved by the American Bar Association. If, however, the applicant is a graduate of a law school certified by the Georgia Board of Bar Examiners and the applicant has been awarded an undergraduate degree from an institution not recognized by CHEA, the applicant shall be considered to have satisfied the undergraduate degree

requirements of these **Rules** if, prior to the date of the examination he or she wishes to take, he or she has the College Board certify to the Board of Bar Examiners that he or she has passed the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) all multiple-choice version of the General Examination in English Composition and any two of the following CLEP examinations: General Examination in Humanities; General Examination in Mathematics; General Examination in Natural Sciences; and General Examination in Social Sciences and History. The passing score for each of the general examinations shall be that scaled score which represents the 50th percentile of achievement as reported by the College Board for its 1978 reference group or such later reference group as may be established by the College Board.

(b) (1) Prior to taking the bar examination an applicant must have been awarded the first professional degree in law (JD or LLB) by a law school approved by the American Bar Association.

(2) Graduates of law schools approved by the Georgia Board of Bar Examiners but not by the American Bar Association who have been certified as fit to practice law, who satisfy the undergraduate educational requirement of these **Rules**, and who graduate from law school prior to January 1, 1998, shall be eligible to take the bar examination in the same manner and under the same conditions as are graduates of American Bar Association approved law schools.

(c) A lawyer educated at a law school located outside the United States and its territories (a "foreign-educated lawyer") may meet the requirements of Part B, Section 4 (b) if the foreign-educated lawyer:

(1) Received his or her legal education and graduated from a foreign law school that:

- a. Is government sanctioned or recognized, if educational institutions are state regulated within the country; or
- b. Is recognized or approved by an evaluation body, if such agency exists within the country; or
- c. Is chartered to award the first professional degree in law by the appropriate authority within the country;

- (2) Is authorized to practice law in a foreign jurisdiction; and
- (3) Has been awarded, by a law school fully approved by the American Bar Association, an LLM Degree for the Practice of Law in the United States in a degree program that meets the following requirements:
- a. The degree program certifies to the Board of Bar Examiners, on such form prescribed by the board, that the foreign- educated lawyer received his or her legal education from a law school that meets the requirements of (c) (1) above;
 - b. The degree program prepares students for admission to the bar, and for effective and responsible participation in the United States legal profession; and
 - c. The degree program meets the requirements set forth in the Curricular Criteria for LLM Program for the Practice of Law in the United States adopted by the Board of Bar Examiners and published on the website of the Office of Bar Admissions.

(d) **An applicant shall not be permitted to take the examination unless evidence is first received directly from the schools involved showing that he or she meets the educational requirements of these Rules.** It is the responsibility of the applicant alone to ensure that the evidence is received prior to the examination. The form of evidence shall be an **official transcript** from each college and law school attended; however, in lieu of an official transcript of legal studies an applicant who has graduated within the six months prior to the date of the examination he or she wishes to take shall cause his or her law school to submit a certification to the effect that he or she has graduated within the six months prior to the date of the examination he or she seeks to take. However, a final transcript indicating the award of the applicable JD or LLM degree and the date awarded must be received prior to the release of grades.

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