

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

IN RE: Petition of Florida Board of Bar Examiners for Amendment of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Florida Relating to Admissions to the Bar.

65,958  
FER  
25 Month rule  
Consolidate  
A+B

**FILED** 3

Case No. SID J. WHITE  
OCT 8 1984

CLERK, SUPREME COURT

By Chief Deputy Clerk

COMES NOW the Florida Board of Bar Examiners, hereinafter referred to as the "Board," by and through its undersigned attorney, and petitions this Court for approval of certain amendments to the Rules of the Supreme Court of Florida Relating to Admissions to the Bar, hereinafter referred to as the "Rules," and in support thereof, says:

1. The Board has reviewed the 25-month time limitation for completion of all portions of the Florida Bar Examination as set out in Article VI, Section 9a of the Rules.

2. The Board proposes to eliminate the 25-month rule and amend Article VI entitled "Examinations" to consolidate Parts A and B of the General Bar Examination into a two-day examination requiring the applicant to submit to both portions of the examination with the pass/fail line set utilizing the compensatory model. Use of the multiple cut off model would be deleted.

3. Also contained among the proposed amendments filed herein is a recommendation that the passing scaled score for the consolidated General Bar Examination be expressed as 262, which is the sum of the scaled scores of Parts A and B, and not 131, which is the average scaled score of Parts A and B. This change would not alter the pass/fail line as it is expressed in the current rule.

4. Additionally, the Board seeks an amendment to Article VI which would require that the General Bar Examination be successfully taken at an administration immediately preceding or immediately following the successful completion of the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination.

5. The Board proposes to amend Article III, Section 2 of the Rules to offer an additional method for withdrawal of application. The proposed change would permit the Board to accept withdrawal of an application with prejudice upon the request of the applicant.

6. Additionally, the Board seeks to amend Article III, Section 3 to notify applicants who have been served with specification and who fail to answer or who refuse to agree to the scheduling of the formal hearing to provide a penalty for such conduct.

7. The Board proposes to add to the Rules in Article IV a requirement for reinvestigation of the applicant's character and fitness if the Application for Admission to The Florida Bar has been on file over three years, as is current Board policy. The Board also proposes to set a specific fee for this reinvestigation by amending Article V of the Rules.

7. Attached hereto as a composite exhibit is a compilation of only those Rules which are proposed to be added or amended. The attached composite exhibit reflects the present wording of each rule together with the proposed rule reflecting the amendments and deletions. Brief narrative explanations of the rationale for such amendments and deletions are provided where appropriate.

Existing Rules which will require renumbering as a result of the amendments proposed herein are not reproduced in the compilation of the Rules attached hereto. Upon receipt of the Court's order, the Board will make such changes as appropriate prior to publication of the Rules in full.

WHEREFORE, the Board prays for the entry of an order amending, confirming and adopting the amendments to the Rules which are reproduced and attached to this Petition as Exhibit "A." The Board recommends that the proposed amendments to Article III, Section 2, Article III, Section 3 and Article IV, Section 2 and Article V, Section ~~2~~<sup>3</sup> become effective immediately upon order of the Court. The Board recommends that all other amendments become effective with the administration of the February 1985 General Bar Examination by requiring applicants to submit to both portions of the examination at that administration. However, any applicant who has attained a passing status on any individual part may retain that passing status for the applicable 25-month period as permitted under the current Rules, may submit to only a portion of the examination and may combine that passing status with a passing status on the remaining part as appropriate through November 1986.

DATED this 2nd day of October, 1984.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES P. PILLANS, III, CHAIRMAN  
FLORIDA BOARD OF BAR EXAMINERS

BY: *Graham Carothers*  
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Attorney to the Board