CHAPTER 31
ADMISSION TO THE BAR

Section 31.11 Automatic review

31.11(1) Score range for review. An applicant whose combined, scaled score on the current examination is at least 260, but less than 266, will have an automatic review of the applicant’s written answers in the MEE and MPT components of the bar examination prior to release of the bar examination results. The board will not review any examination with a combined, scaled score that does not fall within this range, and the board will not conduct any review after release of the bar examination results.

31.11(2) Procedures for automatic review. The board will apply the following procedures for an automatic review:

a. The attorney members of the board and any temporary examiners the board may designate will review the applicant’s written answers. The answers will be submitted on an anonymous basis without oral argument or hearing. If it appears that an answer should receive a different score (whether higher or lower), that score will be used to determine the applicant’s scaled score. The board will maintain a record of any changes made to the scoring of the individual questions on review.

b. Following its review, the board will recommend to the supreme court that the applicant be admitted to the practice of law in Iowa if the applicant’s combined, scaled score after review is at least 266. An applicant whose combined, scaled score after review is 265 or below will be deemed to have failed the examination.

31.11(3) Supreme court review.

a. Extraordinary circumstances. An unsuccessful applicant whose combined, scaled score on the bar examination is at least 260, but less than 266, may file a petition in the supreme court requesting review of the board’s determination. However, the board’s decision regarding an applicant’s score is final and will not be reviewed by the court absent extraordinary circumstances. “Extraordinary circumstances” would include issues such as the board’s refusal to correct a clear mathematical error, but would not include a claim that the board erred in the grade assigned to a particular answer.

b. 31.11(2) Petition for review. The petition must be filed with the clerk of the supreme court and served upon the board. The petition must be filed within 20 days of the date the applicant’s score is posted in the office of professional regulation and must be accompanied by a $150 fee. The petition must identify in detail the extraordinary circumstances requiring supreme court review of the board’s determination. If a petition is not filed within the 20-day period, the board’s determination is not subject to review.

c. 31.11(3) Supreme court order. Upon request of the court, the board will transmit to the supreme court the complete record in the case. All documents submitted for the court’s review, other than the...
applicant’s petition, are confidential. Unless the court orders otherwise, the court will review the petition on the record previously made. After consideration of the record, the court will enter its order sustaining or denying the petition. The order of the court is conclusive. All documents submitted for the court’s review, other than the applicant’s petition, are confidential.

Rule 31.14 Admission pro hac vice before Iowa courts and administrative agencies.

31.14(2) Authority of court or agency to permit appearance by out-of-state lawyer.

a. Court proceeding. A court of this state may, in its discretion, admit an eligible out-of-state lawyer, who is retained to appear as attorney of record in a particular proceeding, only if the out-of-state lawyer appears with an in-state lawyer in that proceeding.

b. Administrative agency proceeding. Regardless of whether practice before an agency of this state is limited to lawyers, an out-of-state lawyer must apply for admission pro hac vice to appear as attorney of record in an agency proceeding. The agency may, using the same standards and procedures as a court, admit an eligible out-of-state lawyer who has been retained to appear in a particular agency proceeding as counsel in that proceeding pro hac vice, only if the out-of-state lawyer appears with an in-state lawyer in that proceeding.

c. Subsequent proceedings. Admission pro hac vice is limited to the particular court or agency proceeding for which admission was granted. An out-of-state lawyer must separately seek admission pro hac vice in any subsequent district or appellate court proceeding.