

In the Iowa Supreme Court

Request for Public Comment on)
Proposed Amendments to the)
Bar Admission Rules in Chapter)
31 of the Iowa Court Rules)

Order

CLERK SUPREME COURT

The Office of Professional Regulation has submitted proposed amendments to the bar admission rules in chapter 31 of the Iowa Court Rules. Prior to taking further action, the supreme court seeks public comment on the proposed amendments. The proposed amendments include:

- **Rule 31.26.** The amendment would conform the rule with the current practice of not requiring applicants admitted in another jurisdiction to comply with the law student registration requirement in the rule.

- **Rule 31.4(7).** This proposed rule change would provide a method of administratively closing applications for admission by transferred Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) scores that have been pending for more than one year.

- **Rule 31.5(3).** The amendment corrects an internal cross reference in the rule.

- **Rule 31.6.** The amendment would recognize that an applicant already licensed as an attorney in a United States territory may also seek to take the bar exam.

- **Rule 31.8(1).** The rule change would treat bar exam applicants the same as applicants seeking admission through a transferred UBE score and allow graduates of provisionally-approved law schools to take the bar exam.

- **Rule 31.10.** The amendment would align the rule with current practices regarding anonymity of applicants.

- **Rule 31.12(2).** The amendment clarifies the rule that a National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) investigation is required for applications for admission on motion.

- **Rule 31.12(3).** The amendment would align the rule with recent legislative changes to Iowa Code chapter 602 recognizing that an attorney from a United States territory may take the bar exam.

- **Rule 31.12(9).** The proposed new rule would provide a process for administrative closure of applications for admission without examination that have been pending for more than one year.

- **Rule 31.13(1).** The amendment would remove certificate requirements for admission of attorneys from other jurisdictions.

- **Rule 31.16(2).** The amendment would clarify requirements for attorneys seeking to register as in-house counsel.

The proposed amendments to Iowa Court Rules chapter 31 are provided with this order and are available on the judicial branch website at <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/supreme-court/orders/>. In addition, copies of the proposed amendments are available at the office of the Clerk of the Iowa Supreme Court.

The supreme court's request for public comment does not imply that the court will adopt any proposed amendment without further consideration.

Any interested organization, agency, or person may submit written comments. Comments about a proposed rule amendment must refer to the specific rule number and line number (for example, rule 41.3(2), lines 16–17). Email comments must be sent to **rules.comments@iowacourts.gov**, must state **“Chapter 31 Proposed Amendments”** in the subject line of the email, and must be sent **as an attachment to the email in Microsoft Word format**. Instead of submission by email, comments may be delivered in person or mailed to the Clerk of the Iowa Supreme Court, 1111 East Court Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, 50319.

Any comments received may be posted on the Iowa Judicial Branch

website.

The deadline for submitting comments is 4:30 p.m. on September 30, 2019.

Dated this 1st day of August, 2019.

The Supreme Court of Iowa

By Mark S. Cady
Mark S. Cady, Chief Justice