

In the Iowa Supreme Court

In the Matter of Adopting)
Amendments to Bar Admission) **Order**
Rules in Chapter 31 of the Iowa)
Court Rules)

CLERK SUPREME COURT

On August 1, 2019, the Iowa Supreme Court requested public comment on proposed amendments to the bar admission rules in chapter 31 of the Iowa Court Rules. Upon close of the public comment period and after further consideration of the proposed amendments, the court adopts amendments as provided with this order to be effective January 1, 2020.

The amendments include:

- **Rule 31.2(6).** The amendment conforms 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 rule change provides 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 recognizes 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 treats bar exam applicants the same as applicants seeking admission through a transferred UBE score and allows graduates of provisionally-approved law schools to take the bar exam.
- **Rule 31.10.** The amendment aligns 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 investigation is required for applications for admission on motion.

- **Rule 31.12(3).** The amendment aligns the rule with recent legislative changes to Iowa Code chapter 602 recognizing that an attorney from a United States territory may be admitted without examination.

- **Rule 31.12(9).** The new rule provides 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 removes the requirement of an applicant to file a certificate of good moral character from a judge or clerk of the Iowa district court.

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

The court retains the past practice certificate requirement of rule 31.13(1)(b) establishing the applicant's regular engagement in the practice of law.

The amendments to chapter 31 of the Iowa Court Rules provided with this order are effective January 1, 2020.

Dated this 24th day of October, 2019.

The Iowa Supreme Court

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