

**In the Iowa Supreme Court**

**FILED**

JUN 02 2020

CLERK SUPREME COURT

**Request for Public Comment on )  
Proposed Amendments to )  
Iowa Court Rule 31.16— )  
Registration of House Counsel )**

**Order**

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The Iowa Supreme Court is considering amendments to Iowa Court Rule 31.16—Registration of House Counsel. Prior to taking further action, the supreme court seeks public comment on the proposed amendments.

The proposed amendments would, inter alia, remove the five-year limitation on house counsel registration status and would subject house counsel attorneys to the same client security fund assessments as other Iowa attorneys. The proposed amendments include the following:

- **Rule 31.16(3).** The amendment would provide that attorneys registered as house counsel are subject to the same regular and special client security fund assessments as other Iowa attorneys. The amendment is consistent with how other jurisdictions treat house counsel registrants.
- **Rule 31.16(6).** The amendment would require attorneys seeking to be reinstated as house counsel due to a change in employment to submit new versions of all of the original documentation the attorney was required to submit when originally registering as house counsel.
- **Rule 13.16(7).** The amendment would require attorneys previously registered as house counsel who have not reinstated within a 180-day window to start the registration process anew.
- **Rule 31.16(10)(a).** The amendment would remove a five-year limitation on house counsel registration status for attorneys licensed in another United States jurisdiction. The amendment is consistent with how other jurisdictions treat house counsel registration.
- **Rule 31.16(11).** The amendment would remove the five-year limitation on the duration of house counsel status for attorneys currently subject to that limitation.

The proposed amendments to Iowa Court Rule 31.16—Registration of House Counsel 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 31.16(10), lines 21–25). Email comments must be sent to **rules.comments@iowacourts.gov**, state **“House Counsel”** in the subject line of the email, and 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 July 31, 2020.**

Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2020.

The Iowa Supreme Court

By   
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Susan Larson Christensen Chief Justice

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