FILED
SUPREME COURT
STATE OF WASHINGTON
MAY 15, 2020
BY SUSAN L. CARLSON
CLERK

THE SUPREME COURT OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF STATEWIDE RESPONSE BY WASHINGTON STATE COURTS TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY	))))))	ORDER TEMPORARILY MODIFYING ADMISSION AND PRACTICE RULES No. 25700-B-623

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic necessitates special measures to allow for the safe administration of the bar exam and may affect the ability of some applicants to take the Bar exam in July, and

WHEREAS, Washington's Admission and Practice Rule (APR) 9 permits eligible law school and law clerk students and graduates to engage in limited and supervised legal practice within the delineated scope of their APR 9 licenses, and

WHEREAS, the Court recognizes the benefit to members of the public who need legal services of continuing to authorize educated and trained APR 9 Licensed Legal Interns to provide assistance to clients, within the scope of their APR 9 licenses and supervision, and

WHEREAS, the Court has reviewed Washington's APRs to consider whether any of its provisions should be modified in light of the COVID-19 pandemic,

The Court hereby unanimously enters the following order establishing temporary modifications to some provisions of the current APRs:

1) APR 4(d)(1) is temporarily modified for the bar exams to be administered in Washington in July and September 2020 only, to allow for a minimum passing score of 266;

2) Notwithstanding any provision of APR 3, the court authorizes the WSBA to modify exam procedures to the extent necessary for the safe and effective administration of the bar exam in July and September 2020.

3) The provisions of APR 9(h) regarding the term of the license are modified so that no APR 9 license will be subject to termination solely because the APR 9 Licensed Legal Intern has been licensed for more than 30 consecutive months or for more than 18 months after graduation from an approved law school or completion of the APR 6 Law Clerk program;

4) The provisions of APR 9(f)(6) regarding the limits on the number of Licensed Legal Interns that one Active lawyer may supervise at one time are modified so that: an Active lawyer in private practice may supervise up to three APR Licensed Legal Interns at one time; and an Active lawyer employed by a recognized institution of legal aid, legal assistance, public defense or similar programs furnishing legal assistance to indigents, or by the legal department of a state, county or municipality may supervise up to six APR 9 Licensed Legal Interns at one time; and

5) The provisions of APR 9(b)(3) are modified to clarify that the term "graduate of an approved law school" includes all applicants with the educational requirements to qualify to sit for the lawyer bar examination, as established in APR 3(b)(1), (2), and (4).

The temporary modifications stated above will remain in effect until December 31, 2021, or until further order of the Court.

In recognition of the economic realities facing recent law school graduates, the Court takes this opportunity to express its support for efforts to ensure that any Licensed Legal Intern

who is covered by the eligibility provisions of APR 9(b)(3) shall receive monetary compensation in compliance with federal and state law governing employment or monetary compensation provided through grants or other funding sources.

DATED at Olympia, Washington this 15th day of May, 2020.

For the Court

Stephens, C.J.
CHIEF JUSTICE