SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

FILED
Administrative Minutes
January 25, 2021
Thérèse S. Barnes
Clerk/Court Executive
SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

The following order was passed:

IN RE: FEBRUARY 2021 REMOTE BAR EXAMINATION.

In light of the uncertainty about the duration of the outbreak of COVID-19 in Georgia and the extent to which public health may require the continuation of measures to impede the transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the Supreme Court of Georgia determined that the bar examination originally scheduled to be administered in person in February 2021 should be cancelled, and the Court directed the Board of Bar Examiners and Office of Bar Admissions instead to make the necessary arrangements for the online administration of a bar examination. For purposes of this remote administration of a bar examination in February 2021, the Court hereby orders:

1. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in Part B, Section 1 of the Rules Governing the Admission to the Practice of Law in Georgia (the "Rules"), the Board of Bar Examiners and the Office of Bar Admissions are authorized to establish application procedures, including deadlines and fees, for the remote administration of a bar examination in February 2021;
2. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in Part B, Section 2 of the Rules, any applicant certified as fit to practice law after the deadline for filing an application to take the February 2021 examination shall be allowed until January 11, 2021 to file an application to take the examination.

3. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in Part B, Section 2 of the Rules, an applicant who fails to file a timely application to take the February 2021 bar examination or fails to submit charges to the National Conference of Bar Examiners shall nevertheless be permitted to take the examination if he or she files an application to do so and pays a late fee of $200 and submits all applicable charges on or before January 11, 2021.
4. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in Part B, Section 6 of the Rules, a bar examination in February 2021 shall be administered remotely and may be proctored remotely (including by use of artificial intelligence technology).
5. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in Part B, Section 11 of the Rules, the Board of Bar Examiners and Office of Bar Admissions are authorized to modify the oath to be administered to applicants for the bar examination, so as to permit applicants to use:
    a. Scratch paper, notes on paper, and hard-copy books during the administration of the four essay questions prepared by the Board of Bar Examiners; and
    b. Scratch paper during the administration of the Multistate Performance Test prepared by the National Conference of Bar Examiners; and
6. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in Part B, Section 12 of the Rules, the Board to Determine Fitness of Bar Applicants shall be authorized to cause an investigation to be made regarding conduct by an applicant that may violate any law or rule governing the bar examination that is discovered before, during, or after the remote administration of the bar examination, including as part of the proctoring described above in Section (2) of this Order.

The Court further orders that the remote administration of a bar examination in February 2021 shall otherwise be considered a regular bar examination for the purposes of the Rules; shall be

considered a bar examination for purposes of Sections 4-1 and 4-2 of our Order of April 17, 2020 concerning provisional admission to the practice of law in Georgia; and shall be considered a "Georgia Bar Examination" for purposes of Rules 116 and 117 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Georgia.

All the Justices concur.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA
Clerk's Office, Atlanta

I certify that the above is a true extract from the minutes of the Supreme Court of Georgia.
Witness my signature and the seal of said court hereto affixed the day and year last above written.

, Clerk