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Clerk of the
Appellate Courts

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: COVID-19 PANDEMIC

No. ADM2020-00428

ORDER TEMPORARILY MODIFYING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT RULE 7 RELATED TO THE JULY 2020 BAR EXAMINATION

Consistent with the Tennessee Supreme Court's COVID-19 Pandemic Orders entered March 13, 2020, and March 25, 2020, and in furtherance of the Judicial Branch's obligation to mitigate the risks and effects of mitigation of risks associated with COVID-19, the Court adopts temporary changes to the provisions of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 7 listed below. These changes are intended to provide applicants for the July 2020 administration of the Uniform Bar Examination ("UBE") assurance regarding application deadlines and the steps that the Board of Law Examiners (the "Board") is to take in the event a July 2020 examination is not deployed and/or a fall 2020 UBE is offered. With the exception of the modification to sections 3.05(a) of Rule 7, these modifications apply to applicants to the July 2020 administration of the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) in Tennessee.

1. Section 11.03 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 7 is suspended temporarily only for applicants for the July 2020 bar examination to permit limited transfer of applications or full refund of fees, as follows:

a. The July 2020 application for admission by examination and fee paid to the Board will be valid for the UBE administered in July 2020 or on an as-yet-unscheduled fall 2020 date.

b. Applicants will be given the option to choose either the July or fall 2020 UBE, but not both.

c. After a decision is made regarding the July bar examination and regardless of what that decision is, applicants for the July 2020 administration of the UBE who complete the application process prior to the May 20 deadline will be given the option to transfer the July 2020 application and fee paid to the Board to either the fall 2020 UBE, if one is scheduled, or the February 2021 administration of the UBE on or before a deadline to be set by the Board.

d. If a fall examination is not offered and a July 2020 examination is not deployed or cannot be administered, applications and fees paid to the Board will be transferred to the February 2021 examination automatically unless the applicant requests a full refund of the fee paid to the Board on or before a deadline to be set by the Board.

2. Section 10.04 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 7 (practice under supervision) is modified for applicants who graduated from law school between March 1, 2020, and July 24, 2020, who completed the application process by the deadline for the July 2020 administration of the UBE, and who register for § 10.04 practice under supervision, by extending the time applicants are permitted to engage in supervised

practice until November 15, 2021. This modification permits qualified applicants the opportunity to practice under supervision until the admission ceremonies in November 2021.

3. Section 10.07 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 7 (practice pending admission) is modified for applicants who have an active license in good standing in another jurisdiction, who completed the application process by the deadline for the July 2020 bar examination, and who register for practice pending admission under § 10.07, by extending the time applicants are permitted to engage in practice pending admission until November 15, 2021, provided however, that the applicant sits for and completes the earliest examination offered. This modification permits qualified applicants the opportunity to practice pending admission until completion of the admission ceremonies in November 2021.

4. Section 4.07(d) of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 7 is modified for applicants who have completed the application process by the deadline for the July 2020 bar examination and have a qualifying score from the August 2018 or November 2018 administration of the MPRE, to extend the validity of the scores for the August and November 2018 MPRE scores through grade release for the February 2021 examination.

5. Section 3.05(a) of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 7 is modified to permit concurrent applications in order to prevent delays in licensing that applicants for the July 2020 UBE would otherwise experience. A "concurrent application" permits an applicant to apply for admission by Uniform Bar Examination administered in another state and, prior to earning that score, apply to Tennessee for admission by transferred Uniform Bar

Examination score. Sec. 3.05(a)(1) is amended to permit filing of an application to transfer a UBE Score prior to the time an applicant has achieved the required score as long as the applicant achieves the required score on an examination administered between July 2020 and February 2021.

Nothing in this order is to be construed as changing the current status of the July 2020 bar examination. The modifications to Rule 7 are applicable to July 2020 bar examination applicants only and all other provisions of Rule 7 and Board Policies remain unchanged. The Board of Law Examiners remains open and shall continue to provide services, while balancing the health and safety of Board members, staff, exam proctors and the public.

It is so ORDERED.

PER CURIAM