In the Iowa Supreme Court

In the Matter of Adoption of Amendments to the Bar Examination Application Process, Chapter 31 of the Iowa Court Rules	)	**Order**

FILED
DEC 18 2020
CLERK SUPREME COURT

The Iowa Supreme Court adopts amendments to chapter 31 of the Iowa Court Rules concerning the bar examination application process.

The amendments eliminate the law student registration requirement, adjust bar application fees to combine the current law student registration and bar application fee, and authorize use of an electronic bar application.

The court invited public comment on the proposed amendments and has considered the comments received during its review of these rule amendments. The rule amendments include the following:

- **Rule 31.2**. The amendment eliminates the requirement that law students must register with the Iowa Board of Law Examiners and pay a fee prior to January 15 of the year after the person begins the study of law in an accredited law school. It also removes the subsequent deadlines and escalating fees for law student registration. Those individuals who already have a law student registration on file with the Board of Law Examiners under the prior version of this rule will be charged a lower bar application fee than applicants who had not filed such law student registration in order to pay the same total law student registration fee and bar application fee as they had bargained for at the time of their prior law student registration filing.
- **Rule 31.4**. The amendment permits the Iowa Board of Law Examiners to utilize an electronic application for admission by transferred UBE score and requires applicants to pay the processing fee for such application.
- **Rule 31.5**. The amendment permits the Iowa Board of Law Examiners to utilize an electronic application for admission by examination.
- **Rule 31.6(1)**. The amendment requires applicants to pay the processing fee for the electronic application proposed in Rule 31.5.
- **Rule 31.6(2)**. The amendment makes the initial bar application fee paid for the Iowa bar examination by applicants not previously admitted in any other United States jurisdiction the same as those licensed in other United States jurisdictions. Previously, applicants

who were not yet licensed in another jurisdiction paid a bar application fee lower than those licensed in another jurisdiction, but the not-yet-licensed applicants were also responsible for paying the law student registration fee provided for in Rule 31.2, which already-licensed attorneys were not subject to.

- **Rule 31.6(3).** The amendment preserves the same fee differential for those individuals who are unsuccessful on the Iowa bar examination and who apply to take the examination subsequent times. Applicants not previously admitted in another jurisdiction would pay the current reapplication fee of $550 and applicants previously admitted in another jurisdiction would pay the current reapplication fee of $800.

The amendments to Iowa Court Rule chapter 31 as provided with this order are effective January 1, 2021.

Dated this 18th day of December, 2020.

The Iowa Supreme Court

By_____
Susan Larson Christensen, Chief Justice

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