Supreme Court of Florida

No. AOSC21-2

IN RE: IN RE: COVID-19 EMERGENCY MEASURES RELATING TO THE FLORIDA BAR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

As a result of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the State Surgeon General and State Health Officer on March 1, 2020, declared that a public health emergency exists in Florida, and the Governor on March 9, 2020, declared a state of emergency for the entire state. The Florida state courts have taken measures to mitigate the effects of this public health emergency upon the judicial branch and its participants.

In light of the ongoing public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and its impact on the ability to hold trials and hearings, I have determined that the time period during which certain, specific requirements must be demonstrated under the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar that govern The Florida Bar's board certification program should be temporarily extended.

NOW THEREFORE, at the request of The Florida Bar and pursuant to article V, section 15 of the Florida Constitution and the authority conferred upon me by Rule Regulating the Florida Bar 1-12.1(j),

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The time period, during which quantitative requirements that have been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic must be demonstrated for certification and recertification applications in Chapter 6 (Legal Specialization and Education Programs) of the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar, is extended such that applicants must demonstrate compliance with the applicable quantitative requirements for certification and recertification during the 7 years immediately preceding the application for certification and recertification.

2. Unless self-demonstrating, such as jury trials, applicants must demonstrate to the applicable certification committee or board of legal specialization and education that the COVID-19 pandemic adversely impacted the ability to achieve the quantitative requirements.

3. This temporary measure will remain in place until October 31, 2022.

4. Additional orders extending or modifying this measure will be issued as warranted by changing circumstances during the public health emergency.

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, on February 1, 2021.

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Chief Justice Charles T. Canady

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ATTEST:

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John A. Tomasino, Clerk of Court

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