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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 CANCELING THE JULY 2020 BAR EXAMINATION

Consistent with the Tennessee Supreme Court's COVID-19 Pandemic Orders entered March 13, 2020, March 25, 2020, April 2, 2020, and May 11, 2020, and in furtherance of the Judicial Branch's obligation to mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19, the Court has determined that the July 2020 Bar Examination must be canceled.

On July 1, the State had its largest single-day increase in COVID-19 cases. The daily increases in Shelby County, Davidson County, and Knox County where the Bar Examination would have been given are troubling. The Court has determined that the potential benefits of administering the examination do not justify the risk of assembling groups of people in limited space for up to nine hours per day over a period of two days, even if all precautions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are implemented. Therefore, the requirement in Section 4.03 of Rule 7 for an examination to be given in the three grand divisions is temporarily suspended and the July 2020 examination is canceled. The Court anticipates that the Board of Law Examiners will conduct a Fall examination, on September 30 and October 1, 2020, in Knoxville, Tennessee, and that the February and July 2021 examinations will be held in all three grand divisions.

The Court will issue supplemental orders extending the time for which an applicant may practice pending admission or practice under supervision. The supplemental orders will also extend the dates to request an examination refund and address other concerns. The Court is aware of the tremendous impact the cancellation of the July 2020 Bar Examination will have on applicants and will do its best to mitigate that impact by its supplemental orders.

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