District of Columbia
Court of Appeals

O R D E R

(FILED — May 4, 2020)

The District of Columbia Court of Appeals plans to administer the Uniform Bar Examination ("UBE") on September 9-10, 2020, pandemic-related conditions and restrictions permitting. Social distancing protocols as a health and safety measure will be implemented, which will almost certainly limit the available seating. Each examinee will be required to bring, and to wear at all times while in the examination venue, a face mask. As conditions warrant, in the discretion of the Committee on Admissions, examinees may also be required to have their temperatures taken and to be free of fever and to satisfy other screening requirements to gain entry to the exam.

The court expects to administer the examination at multiple venues. We encourage examinees to submit their completed applications to sit for the examination early during the registration period. Seating priority will be given to examinees who will be first-time takers of the bar examination who obtained JD degrees in 2019 or 2020 from an ABA-approved law school ("priority registrants"). Seating of others (for the full UBE examination) will be available on a first come first served basis if space permits.

Registration for priority registrants for the September 9-10 UBE will open on May 18, 2020, and will close on May 28, 2020. There will be no late registration period. The deadline for accommodations requests is June 12, 2020. If seating remains available after the priority-registration period, the court will announce the opening of a non-priority registration period. Registration fees paid during either registration period will be non-refundable. In the event that circumstances require cancellation of the scheduled September 9-10 UBE, the registration fee will be credited toward the fee payable for the next scheduled bar examination, the UBE score transfer fee payable under D.C. App. Rule 46(d), or the fee payable for admission to the Bar of this court under another provision of Rule 46.

In consultation with the District of Columbia Department of Health, the court will continue to monitor COVID-19-related public health developments, guidance issued by the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control

regarding large gatherings and recommended safety precautions during the pandemic, and related directives by the Office of the Mayor of the District of Columbia. If, on the basis of those consultations and directives, the court determines that it will be unable safely to administer the bar examination as planned on September 9-10, 2020, the court will announce that determination as soon as possible. If that announcement becomes necessary, it will be accompanied by further information about scheduling of the next UBE or about another form of (non-UBE) bar-admission examination (possibly including an online examination with remote proctoring), provisional licensure, or licensure based on a period of supervised practice. The court is exploring all of these options as possible alternatives to in-person testing in a large-group setting.

Interested persons should check the court's website periodically for updates and announcements pertaining to the bar examination and registration.

Over the past few weeks the court has consulted with the District of Columbia Department of Health, the Attorney General of the District of Columbia, the leadership of the District of Columbia Bar, the deans of the laws schools in the District of Columbia, this court's Committee on Admissions, the National Conference of Bar Examiners, other bar admissions authorities, and the courts of other jurisdictions.

The court will issue a temporary, emergency order to authorize the change to a September bar examination and to modify related eligibility, registration, notarization, and other procedural requirements.