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NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT
COURT APPEALS

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA

IN RE APRIL 21, 2020, SWEARING IN CEREMONY FOR FEBRUARY 2020 EXAMINATION APPLICANTS	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT

The Nebraska Supreme Court continues to carefully monitor the evolving circumstances presented by the spread of the novel coronavirus and the COVID-19 disease. Pursuant to the authority vested in the Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court under Neb. Const. art. V, § 1 and Neb. Rev. Stat. § 7-102, the following administrative order is entered for the following reasons:

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Supreme Court is vested with the sole power to admit persons to the practice of law in this state and to fix qualifications for admission to the Nebraska bar;

WHEREAS, all examination applicants who are approved by the Court will be admitted to practice law upon taking the oath prescribed by law and filing an executed oath card pursuant to Neb. Ct. R. § 3-117(I);

WHEREAS, the Administrator of Attorney Services Division notified those applicants who passed the February 2020 Bar Examination that they will be admitted to the Nebraska State Bar upon taking the oath required by law;

WHEREAS, the swearing-in ceremony for new attorneys is customarily held in the Nebraska State Capitol Building and provides for administration of the attorney oath as provided in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 7-104 and Neb. Ct. R. § 3-128(A);

WHEREAS, a public health emergency has been declared in the United States and the State of Nebraska's Directed Health Measure imposes an enforceable 10-person limit on public gatherings; and

WHEREAS, due to the inability to conduct the swearing-in ceremony in person at the Nebraska State Capitol Building without violating the State of Nebraska's Directed Health Measure and putting the attendees and public at increased risk for COVID-19 disease,

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, pursuant to the authority under Neb. Const. art. V, § 1 and Neb. Rev. Stat. § 7-102, that the swearing-in ceremony for the applicants who passed the February 2020 Bar Examination will be held at 10 a.m. April 21, 2020, via live video conference from the Nebraska Supreme Court Courtroom with Chief Justice Michael G. Heavican presiding. The statutory oath shall be administered by Chief Justice Heavican and United States District Court Chief Judge John Gerrard to participants via live video conference at the access number provided to each applicant by Attorney Services Division.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that once the oath has been taken and the ceremony complete, each attorney shall sign his or her oath card and return the same via U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals no later than 10 days after the video conference ceremony. The oath card shall be signed by the Clerk of the Supreme Court and submitted to Attorney Services Division. Thereafter, each attorney shall be notified that the oath is complete. Individuals who are not sworn in via the live video conference shall be sworn in after April 21, 2020, by a judge or clerk of any federal, state, or county court within any jurisdiction of the United States and shall return the signed oath card as provided in Neb. Ct. R. § 3-128.

Dated this 15th day of April, 2020.

BY THE COURT

Michael G. Heavican, Chief Justice