IN THE SUPREME COURT, STATE OF WYOMING

April Term, A.D. 2020

In the Matter of the Amendments to	***)***
Rule 203 of the Rules and Procedures	***)***
Governing Admission to the	***)***
Practice of Law	***)***

ORDER AMENDING RULE 203 OF THE RULES AND PROCEDURES GOVERNING ADMISSION TO THE PRACTICE OF LAW

This matter came before the Court upon the recommendation by the Board of Law Examiners for the Wyoming State Bar (Board), as submitted by Bar Counsel for the Wyoming State Bar. On April 10, 2020, this Court adopted Rule 203 of the Rules and Procedure Governing the Admission to the Practice of Law. In the order adopting the Rule, this Court noted the possibility the July 2020 bar exam might not be administered, due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Rule 203 was adopted to accommodate applicants for the July 2020 bar exam, allowing those applicants to be temporarily admitted to the practice of law, if certain conditions were met. This Court noted that "Rule 203 is conditional on the bar exam NOT being administered in July 2020."

Since then, circumstances have continued to evolve. At present, the Board is planning to administer a bar exam in Wyoming on July 28 and 29, 2020. In addition, the Board intends to offer a second administration of the bar exam on September 30 and October 1, 2020, for July 2020 applicants who so choose.

Now, the Board recommends the Court amend Rule 203 to remain in effect regardless of the fact the bar exam will proceed as noted above. The proposed amendments allow applicants for the July 2020 bar exam to defer sitting for the exam until the February 2021 bar exam and to apply their application fee to the February 2021 bar exam. The Board recommends such July 2020 applicants be allowed temporary admission until they sit for, and receive the results of, the bar exam to be administered in February 2021, subject to the other terms and conditions of the rule.

After a close review of this matter, this Court finds the proposed amendments to Rule 203 should be adopted. With adoption of those amendments, Rule 203 is no longer conditional on the bar exam not being administered in July 2020. It is, therefore,

ORDERED that the amendments to Rule 203 of the Rules and Procedures Governing Admission to the Practice of Law, attached hereto, are adopted by the Court to be effective immediately; and it is further

ORDERED that this order and the attached amendments shall be published in the advance sheets of the Pacific Reporter; the attached amendments shall be published in the Wyoming Court

Rules Volume; and that this order and the attached amendments shall be published online at the Wyoming Judicial Branch's website, http://www.courts.state.wy.us. The rule amendments shall also be recorded in the journal of this Court.

DATED this 17th day of July, 2020.

BY THE COURT:

/s/

MICHAEL K. DAVIS
Chief Justice

Rules and Procedures Governing Admission to the Practice of Law

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SECTION II
APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION BY EXAMINATION
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(a) In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the BLE will offer a first administration of the July 2020 UBE in Wyoming on July 28-29, 2020, and a second administration on September 30-October 1, 2020. Applicants for the July 2020 UBE must communicate their election as to which administration they intend to sit for to the Admissions Director on or before July 21, 2020. Applicants who timely applied for the July 2020 UBE who elect on or before July 21, 2020 not to sit for either the July or September 2020 administration of the UBE shall be permitted to apply their application fee to the February 2021 administration of the UBE.

(b) An eligible individual who ~~has~~ submitted a timely application for admission by examination for the July 2020 ~~Uniform Bar Examination~~ UBE in Wyoming is granted temporary admission to the Wyoming State Bar, provided the applicant:

(1) Has been awarded a juris doctor degree from a law school accredited by the American Bar Association and has not sat for a bar examination in Wyoming or any other jurisdiction prior to February 2021;

(2) Has been determined by the Character and Fitness Committee to possess the requisite good moral character and fitness to practice law;

(3) Is not currently subject to an order of attorney discipline or the subject of a pending formal disciplinary or disability investigation in any jurisdiction;

(4) Has not been denied admission to practice law in Wyoming nor denied admission on character and fitness grounds in any jurisdiction;

(5) Is subject to the disciplinary authority of Wyoming and shall comply with all ethics and related rules of this jurisdiction, including specifically but not limited to rules requiring truthful and non-misleading advertising or other public statements concerning his or her limited authority to practice;

(6) Associates with and is supervised by an active member in good standing of the Wyoming State Bar and discloses the name, address, and membership status of the supervising attorney, which disclosure shall be filed with the Court and the Wyoming State Bar;

(7) Files a signed verification form from the supervising attorney certifying the applicant's association with and supervision by that attorney with the Wyoming Supreme Court and the Wyoming State Bar;

(8) Affirmatively states in all written (including electronic) communications with the public and clients the following language: "Practice temporarily authorized pending admission to the Wyoming State Bar," and, in the initial consultation, affirmatively informs prospective clients with whom the applicant meets (whether in person, by phone or any other means) of the applicant's temporary authorization to practice pending admission to the Wyoming State Bar;" and

(9) The supervising attorney shall be identified as such in all papers submitted to a court, government agency or authority, or alternative dispute resolution tribunal, on which the applicant's name appears.

~~(b)~~(c) Verification. Upon an applicant's satisfactory completion of the application process and provided that the applicant is certified to have the requisite good moral character and fitness to practice law and the applicant has met all of the requirements of this rule, the Board and the Committee shall certify their recommendations to the Court that the applicant is eligible for temporary admission pursuant to this rule. Applicants who are granted temporary admission pursuant to this rule are not required to comply with the attorney's oath provisions of Rule 504.

~~(c)~~(d) Automatic Termination. The authority in this rule shall terminate immediately if the applicant:

(1) Withdraws the application for admission by examination; provided that written deferral of the existing application to the February 2021 administration of the UBE in Wyoming, submitted to the Admissions Director on or before July 21, 2020, shall not constitute withdrawal for purposes of this rule;

(2) Absent a timely deferral of an existing application to the February 2021 administration of the UBE in Wyoming, fails to sit for the UBE administered in Wyoming on July 28-29, 2020, or the UBE administered in Wyoming on September 30-October 1, 2020;

~~(2)~~(3) Sits for and ~~F~~ffails to obtain a passing score on the ~~first Uniform Bar Examination administered in Wyoming following adoption of this rule~~ UBE administered in Wyoming on July 28-29, 2020, or the UBE administered in Wyoming on September 30-October 1, 2020;

(4) Upon timely deferral of an existing application on the terms set forth above, fails to sit for and obtain a passing score on the February 2021 administration of the UBE in Wyoming;

~~(3)~~(5) Fails to submit a timely passing score on the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination;

~~(4)~~(6) Is subject to a formal charge in a disciplinary proceeding.

~~(5)~~(7) The supervising attorney ceases to be an active member in good standing of the Wyoming State Bar; or

~~(6)~~(8) The supervising attorney withdraws the verification required by this rule.

~~(d)~~(e) Required Action After Termination of Authority. Upon termination of authority to practice law pursuant to this rule, the applicant must notify in writing all clients in pending matters, and opposing counsel and co-counsel in pending litigation, of the termination of authority, and immediately cease practicing law in Wyoming.

(f) Applicants who sit for but do not obtain a passing score on the UBE administered in Wyoming on July 28-29, 2020, shall not be eligible to sit for the UBE administered in Wyoming on September 30-October 1, 2020.

~~(f)~~(g) This rule shall remain in effect until ~~December 31, 2020,~~ May 1, 2021, and will continue to apply to any applicants granted temporary admission pursuant to this rule prior to that date.

~~(g)~~(h) Plenary Authority. The Court, in its discretion, may extend the time limits set forth in this rule for good cause shown.

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