

**ORDER OF THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS**

**Misc. Docket No. 99 - 9104**

**Amendments to Rules IX, XIII, XVI, and XVIII,  
Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Texas**

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**IT IS ORDERED** that Rule IX(c) and (f), *Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Texas*, are amended as follows

(c) The Board may require the filing of a Supplemental Investigation Form if:

~~(1) an Applicant previously filed a Declaration and did not apply to take the Texas Bar Examination within four (4) years of the filing date of the Declaration;~~

~~(2) two years have elapsed since the date the initial Application was filed with the Board;~~

~~(3) two years have elapsed since the date a previously required Supplemental Investigation Form was filed with the Board; or~~

(4) in other situations deemed appropriate by the Board.

\* \* \*

(f) The filing deadlines and applicability of the late fees set out in subsection (a) of this rule shall not apply to Re-Applicants who failed the **immediately preceding** Texas Bar Examination and therefore could not have met the subsection (a) deadlines. Any such Re-applicant may take the **next** examination given upon **filing** a Re-application, **and** paying the required fees, ~~and filing a Supplemental Investigation form (if required by these Rules)~~ by:

November 30, for the February Examination; or  
May 30, for the July Examination.

**IT IS ORDERED** that Rule XIII(a)(2)(F)(ii), *Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Texas*, is amended as follows:

(a) An attorney holding a valid law license issued by another state shall meet the requirements imposed on any other Applicant under these Rules, unless such attorney qualifies under one of the following exceptions:

\* \* \*

(2) An attorney who does not meet the criteria for admission without examination set out above is eligible for admission after passing the **Short Form Examination**<sup>1</sup>, if the attorney:

(A) at the time the Texas law license is issued, meets the requirements of Rule II(a)(5);

(B) satisfies the Board of his/her good moral character and fitness after furnishing to the Board such evidence as the Board may require;

(C) has not failed the last Texas Bar Examination taken;

(D) has not failed the last bar examination taken in any other state;

(E) has not failed the last short form examination (sometimes known as attorney's exam) in any other state; **and**

(F) meets **one** of the following requirements:

(i) has a J.D. degree from an approved law school **and** has been actively and substantially engaged in the lawful practice of law in any State as his/her principal business or occupation for at least three of the last five years immediately preceding the filing of the Application; **or**

(ii) has a J.D. degree, which is not based on study by correspondence, from an unapproved law school **and** has been actively and substantially engaged in the lawful practice of law as his/her principal business or occupation in any State as his/her principal business or occupation for at least five of the last seven years immediately preceding the filing of the Application.

**IT IS ORDERED** that Rule XVI(e), *Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Texas*, are amended as follows:

(e) A Probationary Licensee may apply for a renewal of the Probationary License or for a regular license to practice law, by filing a written request ~~therefore and a Supplemental Investigation Form and the requisite fees~~, at least sixty (60) days prior to the expiration date of the Probationary License.

**IT IS ORDERED** that Rule XVIII(a), *Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Texas*, is amended as follows:

(a) The following provisions shall govern the fees charged by the Board:

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<sup>1</sup> The Short Form Examination shall cover the areas of the Texas substantive law and procedure which the Board may determine advisable. Any Applicant who fails the Short Form Examination twice shall thereafter be required to pass the Texas Bar Examination as provided in Rule XI. The timely application filing deadline for each Short Form Examination is the 180th day preceding the date of that examination, and the absolute application filing deadline for each Short Form Examination is the 150th day preceding the date of that examination. Any application filed after the timely deadline must be accompanied by a \$150.00 late fee.

\* \* \*

FEEES RELATING TO ELIGIBILITY & EXAMINATIONS

Texas law student:

\$ 150 Application Fee  
75 Examination Fee  
~~75 Investigation Fee~~  
\$300 ~~225~~

\* \* \*

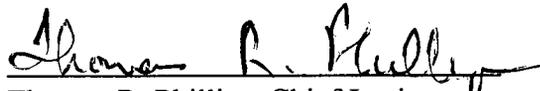
Miscellaneous Fees:

Late Filing Fee ..... \$150  
Re-application Fee ..... \$150  
~~Investigation on Re-application ..... \$150~~

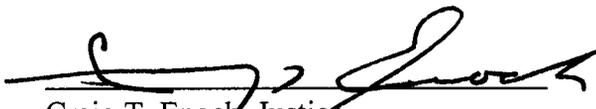
\* \* \*

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that all other provisions of Rule XI, XIII, XVI, and XVIII are unaffected by this order, which shall be effective on immediately, except for the amendments to Rule XVIII(a), which shall be effective on the 1st day of September, 1999.

By the Court, *en banc*, in chambers, on this 30th day of June, 1999.

  
Thomas R. Phillips, Chief Justice

  
Nathan L. Hecht, Justice

  
Craig T. Enoch, Justice

*Priscilla R. Owen*

Priscilla R. Owen, Justice

*Greg Abbott*

~~James A. Baker, Justice~~

Greg Abbott

*James Baker*

~~Greg Abbott, Justice~~

JAMES BAKER

*Deborah G. Hankinson*

Deborah G. Hankinson, Justice

*Harriet O'Neill*

Harriet O'Neill, Justice

*Alberto R. Gonzales*

Alberto R. Gonzales, Justice