

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS


Misc. Docket No. 09- 9043

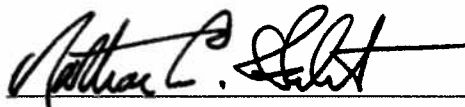
**APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO RULES VIII AND X OF
THE RULES GOVERNING ADMISSION TO THE BAR OF TEXAS**

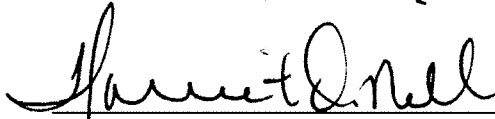
ORDERED that:


Pursuant to Section 82.022 of the Government Code, the Supreme Court of Texas approves the following amendments to Rules VIII and X of the Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Texas. The amendments take effect immediately.


In Chambers, this 24th day of March, 2009.


Wallace B. Jefferson, Chief Justice

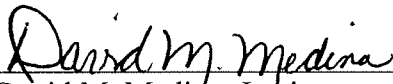

Nathan L. Hecht, Justice


Harriet O'Neill, Justice



J. Dale Wainwright, Justice



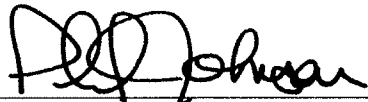
Scott Brister, Justice



David M. Medina, Justice



Paul W. Green, Justice



Phil Johnson, Justice

Don R. Willett, Justice

Rule VIII.
Determination of Declarant Character and Fitness

(a) After completing its own investigation, the Board shall thereupon determine whether, on all the documentation before it at this stage, the Board is satisfied that the Declarant possesses the good moral character and fitness necessary for admission to the Texas Bar and shall advise the Declarant accordingly, no later than the 270th day after the date the Declaration and fees were filed with the Board. If the determination is that the Declarant does not have the requisite good moral character and fitness, such notice shall include:

(1) a detailed analysis of the results of the investigation; and

(2) an objective list of actions, if any, which the Declarant may take to correct the deficiencies and become qualified for admission to the bar after passing the Texas Bar Examination.

(b) A hearing may be set on any such preliminary negative determination, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XV.

(c) If the Board determines that a Declarant may suffer from chemical dependency, the Board shall direct the Declarant to meet with representatives of the Lawyers Assistance Program of the State Bar of Texas or a similar program of the State Bar, and may require that the Declarant submit to a treatment facility for evaluation.

(d) If the Board determines that a Declarant does suffer from chemical dependency, the Board shall assist the Declarant in working with the Lawyers Assistance Program of the State Bar of Texas or a similar program of the State Bar in order to address the dependency.

(e) Any preliminary determination that the Declarant possesses the good moral character and fitness necessary for admission to the Texas Bar is issued on the condition that the Declarant has faithfully complied with these Rules. If at any time before the Declarant is certified to the Supreme Court for licensure it appears that the Declarant obtained such preliminary determination via fraud, concealment, deception, material omission, or by failure to comply with these Rules, the Board may suspend such preliminary determination and continue its investigation for an additional 90 days from the date the Board discovers the apparent fraud, concealment, deception, material omission, or failure to comply with these Rules.

Rule X.
Determination of Applicant Character and Fitness

(a) After completing its investigation on the Application, the Board shall determine whether, on all the documentation before it, the Board is satisfied that the Applicant possesses the requisite present good moral character and fitness and shall advise the Applicant accordingly, no later than the 150th day after the date the Application or Re application and fees were filed with the Board. If the determination is that the Applicant does not have the requisite present good moral character and fitness, such notice shall include:

(1) a detailed analysis of the results of the investigation; and

(2) an objective list of actions, if any, which the Applicant may take to correct the deficiencies and become qualified for admission to the bar after passing the bar examination.

(b) If, after investigation, the Board determines:

(1) that an Applicant may suffer from chemical dependency, the Board shall require the Applicant to submit to a treatment facility for evaluation;

(2) that an Applicant suffers from chemical dependency, the Board shall assist the Applicant in working with the Lawyers Assistance Program of the State Bar of Texas or a similar program of the State Bar.

(c) A hearing may be set on any such preliminary negative determination, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XV.

(d) Any preliminary determination that the Applicant possesses the requisite present good moral character and fitness is issued on the condition that the Applicant has faithfully complied with these Rules. If at any time before the Applicant is certified to the Supreme Court for licensure it appears that the Applicant obtained such preliminary determination via fraud, concealment, deception, material omission, or by failure to comply with these Rules, the Board may suspend such preliminary determination and continue its investigation for an additional 90 days from the date the Board discovers the apparent fraud, concealment, deception, material omission, or failure to comply with these Rules.

(e) The Applicant has a continuing duty to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the Applicant's responses on the Application and to update those responses until the Applicant is

certified to the Supreme Court for licensure. The Applicant shall notify the Board, in writing, as soon as practicable, but no later than 30 days after the Applicant knew or should have known of any information necessary to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the Applicant's responses. The Applicant shall promptly furnish any additional documentation requested by the Board in connection therewith. The Board is authorized to re-open its investigation for up to 90 days following receipt of any addition, change, or update to information previously provided to the Board.