

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Misc. Docket No. 97- 9073

ORDER ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO
RULES GOVERNING ADMISSION TO THE BAR OF TEXAS

IT IS ORDERED that the *Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Texas* are amended as follows:

1. **Effective on the day this order is signed, Rule VI(b) and (c) are amended in the following manner:**

“(b) The timely filing deadline for such Declaration, for which no late fees shall be charged, shall be as follows:

“Fall entrants, ~~December~~ October 1;
Regular Spring entrants, May 1;
Spring entrants at quarter-hour law schools, June 1;
Summer entrants, September 15.

“(c) Declarations filed with the Board after the timely filing deadline will be accepted with the payment of the applicable late fees as set forth in Rule XVIII, ~~provided that, in the opinion of the Board, there is sufficient time for completion of the investigation of the late-filed Declarations. However, no Declarant shall be eligible to take the Texas Bar Examination, unless the Declaration and required fees are filed by:~~

~~“For a February Examination, the preceding June 1;
For a July examination, the preceding November 1.~~

~~“The Board may, for good cause shown in writing, approve a waiver of this provision, so long as they are filed by the absolute application deadline set out in Rule IX(a)(3). However, regardless of the date a Declaration is filed, the Board shall have 270 days from the date the Declaration is filed to conduct its character and fitness investigation and notify the Declarant of the Board’s determination, as provided in Rule VIII(a).”~~

2. **Effective on the 2nd day of August, 1997, Rule XI(c) and (e) are amended in the following manner:**

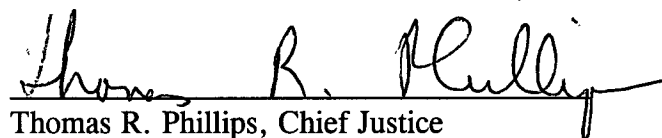
“(c) The Texas Bar Examination shall be given two times each year, beginning on the last Tuesday of the months of February and July, unless the Board otherwise directs.

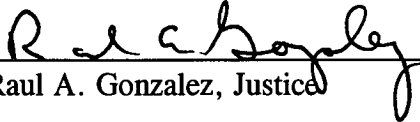
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“(e) The provisions of this subsection (e) shall apply to each Applicant who takes the Texas Bar Examination in February 1998 or thereafter.¹ The Texas Bar Examination shall last two and one-half days and shall consist of the Multistate Performance Test (MPT), given on Tuesday ~~afternoon~~ morning; the Procedure and Evidence Questions (P&E), given on Tuesday ~~afternoon~~ morning; the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE), given on Wednesday; and the Texas Essay Questions (Essays), given on Thursday. After grading the answers to the MPT, the P&E, and the Essays, the resulting raw scores on each of these portions will be scaled to the Multistate Bar Examination, using the equipercentile method. Scores on the various portions of the examination will be weighted as follows: MPT, 10%; P&E, 10%; MBE, 40%; and Essays, 40%. Applicants who earn a combined scaled score of 675 (out of a possible 1000 points) shall pass the examination.”

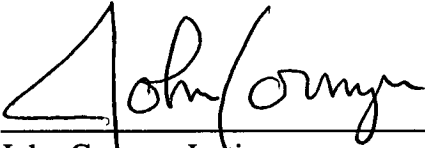
Through the administration and grade release of the July 1998 Texas Bar Examination, the Board will continue to “grandfather” the passing scores of any Applicant who has previously taken and passed either Part I or Part II of any Texas Bar Examination, provided that such passing score is still valid under these *Rules* and that such Applicant has properly elected under the prior version of this rule not to re-take such passed portion of the Texas Bar Examination. Such an Applicant who has elected not to re-take the P&E (formerly called Part II) will pass the Texas Bar Examination if (s)he earns on the other portions of the exam (MPT, MBE, and Essays) a combined scaled score of at least 607.5 (90% of the combined scaled score necessary to pass the Texas Bar Examination). Likewise, an Applicant electing not to re-take the MBE and the Essays (formerly called Part I) will pass if (s)he earns on the other portions of the exam (MPT and P&E) a combined scaled score of at least 135 (20% of the combined scaled score necessary to pass the Texas Bar Examination). An Applicant electing to take only a portion of the examination under this clause shall pay the same fees as an Applicant taking the entire examination.”

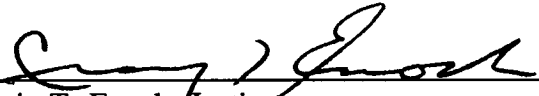
SIGNED AND ENTERED this 15th day of May, 1997.


Thomas R. Phillips, Chief Justice



Raul A. Gonzalez, Justice



Nathan L. Hecht, Justice

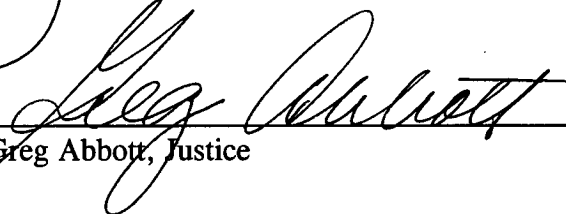

John Cornyn, Justice


Craig T. Enoch, Justice


Rose Spector, Justice


Priscilla R. Owen, Justice


James A. Baker, Justice


Greg Abbott, Justice