

Supreme Court of Texas

Misc. Docket No. 25-9018

Order Inviting Comments on the Law School Accreditation Component of Texas's Bar Admission Requirements

Whereas:

Section 82.022 of the Government Code provides that the Supreme Court “may adopt rules on eligibility . . . for a license to practice law,” which may include “provisions to ensure . . . adequate study of law . . .”; and

Section 82.024 provides that completion of the prescribed study at an “approved law school . . . satisfie[s] the law study requirements . . . for a license to practice law” and defines an “approved law school” as one that is approved by the Court; and

Before 1983, the Court decided which law schools would satisfy the law study requirements for licensure based on standards adopted by the Court; and

In 1983, the Court delegated its authority to approve law schools to the American Bar Association; and

With limited exceptions, the current Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Texas require graduation from a law school approved by the ABA to be eligible for admission to the Texas bar; and

The Court is considering the law school accreditation component of Texas's bar admission requirements;

It is **ORDERED** that:

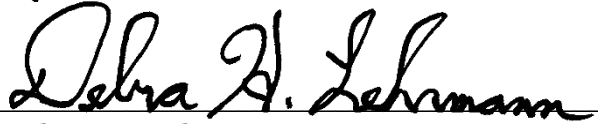
1. The Court invites comments on this topic from the Texas Board of Law Examiners, the Texas law school deans, the bar, and the public.
2. Specifically, the Court requests feedback on:
 - a. whether to reduce or end the Rules' reliance on the ABA; and
 - b. alternatives the Court should consider.

3. The Court requests that comments take into consideration the goals of promoting high-quality and cost-effective legal education, meeting Texans' need for legal services, protecting the public, and promoting public accountability in the State of Texas's governance of the legal profession.
4. Comments should be submitted in writing to rulescomments@txcourts.gov by July 1, 2025.
5. The Clerk is directed to:
 - a. file a copy of this Order with the Secretary of State;
 - b. cause a copy of this Order to be mailed to each registered member of the State Bar of Texas by publication in the *Texas Bar Journal*;
 - c. send a copy of this Order to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and each elected member of the Legislature; and
 - d. submit a copy of this Order for publication in the *Texas Register*.

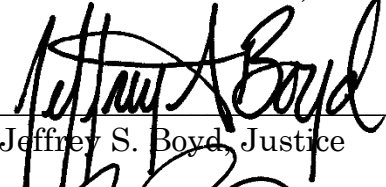
Dated: April 4, 2025.



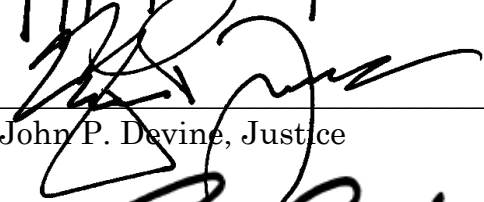
James D. Blacklock, Chief Justice



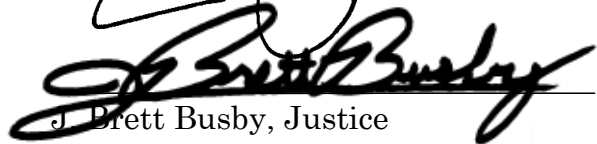
Debra H. Lehrmann, Justice



Jeffrey S. Boyd, Justice



John P. Devine, Justice



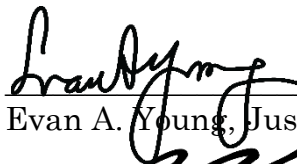
J. Brett Busby, Justice



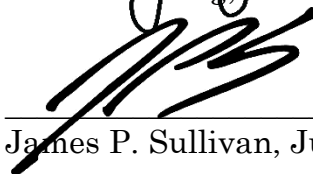
Jane N. Bland, Justice



Rebeca A. Huddle, Justice



Evan A. Young, Justice



James P. Sullivan, Justice