

SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA

ORDER

Acting in accordance with Article V, Sections 1 and 5 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, and the inherent power of this Court, and considering the need to amend Louisiana Supreme Court Rule XVII regarding Admission to the Bar of the State of Louisiana,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED THAT:

Louisiana Supreme Court Rule XVII, Section 7 be and is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 7. Written Examination.

The Committee shall administer a written examination, consisting of two parts: the nine-part written examination (Part I) and the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (Part II).

(A) The multi-part written examination (Part I) shall consist of separate examinations in the following subjects:

1. Civil Code I
2. Civil Code II
3. Civil Code III
4. Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure
5. Torts
6. Business Entities and Negotiable Instruments
7. Constitutional Law
8. Criminal Law, Procedure and Evidence
9. Federal Jurisdiction and Procedure

Examinations 1-5 are "Code" examinations; examinations 6-9 are "Non-Code" examinations. The Committee shall designate and publish the scope of each examination and provide such information to each applicant.

Each subject examination shall have a maximum score of 100 points. Code subjects shall carry twice as much weight as the Non-Code subjects in determining an applicant's total score. The total score required for passing is 650 out of a possible 900. All total scores are rounded to the nearest whole number.

An applicant shall sit for all subject examinations and make a good faith effort to pass each subject examination. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

(B) The Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE) is administered by the NCBE. An applicant may take the MPRE at any time after successfully completing his/her required law school course work in legal ethics or professional responsibility, and must complete the examination with a passing score prior to and as a condition precedent to admission to the Bar of this state.

An applicant must receive a scaled score of 80 or higher to have passed the MPRE.

Louisiana Supreme Court Rule XVII, Section 8 be and is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 8. Re-examination/Time Limits.

(A) Failure. Part I. An applicant who fails Part I may reapply to take Part I, but shall not receive credit for any separate subject examination passed during any prior examination.

(B) Reapplication. Every applicant who fails Part I and who desires to re-take the examination must submit the application(s) and pay the fee(s) required by this Rule. After failing to pass five examinations, an applicant shall never be permitted to reapply.

(C) Failure; Time Limitations. Part II. Any applicant who fails to pass Part II of the written examination (MPRE) shall be required to take and pass the examination prior to and as a condition precedent to admission to the Bar of this state.

A passing score for the MPRE (Part II) shall be valid for a period of five (5) years from the date of the examination. However, an applicant who has been admitted to the Bar of another state, passed the MPRE in fulfillment of the Bar admissions requirement(s) of the applicant's state(s) of admission, and complied with the continuing legal education requirements of the applicant's state(s) of admission will be considered to have satisfied the requirement. This limitation shall not be waived by the Committee for an applicant who has not previously passed the MPRE in connection with the admission to the Bar of another state(s) or who has not previously been admitted to the Bar of another state.

(D) Cheating on the Written Examination. In the event the Court determines that an applicant cheated, aided or assisted another applicant in cheating on the written examination, or attempts to cheat or aid or assist another in cheating, the applicant shall fail the examination and the Court may permanently prohibit the applicant from reapplying. If the applicant has already been admitted, the Court may order that disciplinary proceedings under La. S. Ct. Rule XIX be commenced.

Louisiana Supreme Court Rule XVII, Section 12(B)(4) be and is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 12. Review Procedure for Part I of the Louisiana State Bar Examination.

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(4) The decision of the Committee on Bar Admissions as to whether an applicant has passed or failed Part I shall be final.

These rule changes shall become effective on July 1, 2012, and shall remain in full force and effect thereafter, until amended or changed through future Orders of this Court.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this _____ day of October, 2011.

FOR THE COURT:

Catherine D. Kimball, Chief Justice