

**SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA**

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**O R D E R**

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Acting under the authority of Article V, Section 1 of Constitution of 1974, and the inherent power of this Court, and considering continuing need to modify the administration of the Louisiana bar examination in light of the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19),

WHEREAS, the Court previously issued an Order dated May 13, 2020 amending Part I of the written examination required by Section 7 of Supreme Court Rule XVII;

WHEREAS, the Court acknowledges that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed an unprecedented and extraordinary burden on applicants registered for the July and October 2020 Louisiana bar examinations;

WHEREAS, on July 11, 2020, Governor John Bel Edwards announced additional Phase 2 mitigation measures in Proclamation Number 89 JBE 2020;

WHEREAS, on July 15, 2020, the Court announced the cancellation of the July 2020 in-person and remote bar examination due to the rising coronavirus infection rate;

WHEREAS, the Court considered input from the Louisiana Supreme Court Committee on Bar Admissions and the deans of the four Louisiana law schools relating to the bar examination and the impact the COVID-19 virus is having on its administration;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- I. Prior Order. This Order shall supplement the Order of this Court dated May 13, 2020.

**II. Emergency Admission of Qualified Candidates.**

1. Part I of the multi-part written examination required by Section 7 of Supreme Court Rule XVII, as modified by this Court's May 13, 2020 Order, is hereby waived for "Qualified Candidates."
2. A person shall be considered a Qualified Candidate if the person has:
  - a. Already completed registration for either the July or October 2020 Louisiana bar examination in accordance with the instructions issued by the Louisiana Supreme Court Committee on Bar Admissions;
  - b. Graduated in December, 2019 or later from an ABA-accredited law school; and
  - c. Not previously sat for any bar examination in any state or territory in the United States and will not be taking the bar examination in any state or territory in the United States in 2020.
3. Qualified Candidates must satisfy all other requirements for admission outlined in Supreme Court Rule XVII, including demonstrating requisite character and fitness and passing the Multi-State Professional Responsibility Examination. Upon completion of all requirements, the admission will be effected as soon as practically possible by the Louisiana Supreme Court Committee on Bar Admissions and the Clerk of the Louisiana Supreme Court.
4. In addition, Qualified Candidates who are admitted upon emergency waiver of the written examination pursuant to Section II.1 above must fulfill the additional requirements set forth below no later than December 31, 2021. Failure to complete these requirements shall result in a Qualified Candidate being certified ineligible to practice law in Louisiana until such requirements are fulfilled:

a. Complete 25 hours of CLE. 12.5 of the credits shall be obtained in accordance with the requirements set forth in Supreme Court Rule XXX(3)(b), and the remaining 12.5 hours may be in any other approved subject matter.

b. Complete all requirements of the Louisiana State Bar Association's "Transition Into Practice" program.

**III. Remote Bar Examination.**

1. No in-person bar examination shall be administered in Louisiana in 2020.

2. There shall be two remote administrations of the previously announced 1-day bar examination: August 24, 2020 and October 10, 2020.

3. The content and scoring details of the 1-day remote bar examination shall be the same as previously announced in this Court's May 13, 2020 Order. Applicants shall be permitted to use "scratch paper" during the remote examination.

4. Applicants who were currently scheduled to sit for either the July or October 2020 bar examination who are not Qualified Candidates may elect one of the following options for proceeding with their applications:

a. Withdraw the application for a full and complete refund of all application fees paid;

b. Transfer the application and fees, without further charge, to the (i) August 24, 2020 1-day remote bar examination; (ii) October 10, 2020 1-day remote bar examination; (iii) February, 2021 bar examination, or (iv) July 2021 bar examination.

c. Maintain a pending application for the October 10, 2020 1-day remote bar examination.

**IV.** Nothing in this Order shall prohibit a Qualified Candidate from sitting for any administration of the Louisiana bar examination; however, if such Qualified Candidate does not receive a passing score on the examination, he or she shall no longer be eligible for the Emergency Admission set forth in Section II above.

Given under our hands and seal this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July A.  
D., 2020, New Orleans, Louisiana.

FOR THE COURT:

  
Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson