

STATE OF MAINE
SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT
AMENDMENT TO
MAINE BAR ADMISSION RULES

2016 Me. Rules 01

Effective: February 5, 2016

All of the Justices concurring therein, the following amendment to the Maine Bar Admission Rules is adopted to be effective on the date indicated above. The specific amendment is stated below. To aid in understanding of the amendment, an Advisory Note appears after the text of the amendment. The Advisory Note states the reason for recommending the amendment, but the Advisory Note is not part of the amendment adopted by the Court.

1. Rule 10 of the Maine Bar Admission Rules is amended to read as follows:

RULE 10. THE BAR EXAMINATION

.....

(d) Contents of the Bar Examination.

(1) The first day of the examination shall consist of questions selected by the Board with the assistance of such consultants as the Board may deem appropriate. The examination may include the Multistate Essay Examination (MEE) and/or the Multistate Performance Test prepared by the National Conference of Bar Examiners. The examination shall cover the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, the Maine Rules of ~~and~~ Unified Criminal Procedure, the Maine Rules of Appellate Procedure, the Maine Rules of Evidence, the Maine Rules of Professional Conduct, and several, but not necessarily all, of the following subjects: business associations, conflict of laws, constitutional law, contracts, creditors' rights, criminal law, equity, estates, wills and trusts, evidence, family law, agency, partnerships, real property, statute of frauds, statutes of limitations, federal income taxation, torts, and the Uniform Commercial Code.

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(e) Modified Bar Examinations.

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(2) An applicant qualified under either (e)(1)(i) or (e)(1)(ii) of this rule and who has achieved a useable MBE scale score may be admitted on the basis of a further modified written examination that shall include two or more of the subjects of the Maine Rules of Professional Conduct, the Maine Rules of Evidence, the Maine Rules of Appellate Procedure, ~~and~~ the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, and the Maine Rules of Unified Criminal Procedure, if the Board determines that the applicant's minimal competence in every subject tested in such modified examination, combined with the applicant's MBE examination record, demonstrates sufficient learning in the law to practice as an attorney in this State.

.....

(k) Extension of time for admission to the bar. Any motion to enlarge the time for admission to the bar submitted pursuant to 4 M.R.S. § 805-A(3) shall be filed with the Executive Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court prior to the expiration of the one-year deadline established by the statute. The applicant shall serve a copy of the motion upon the Board by electronic mail and by regular mail sent on or before the date of filing. Any response by the Board shall be filed within 14 days after the applicant's filing of the motion to enlarge.

Advisory Notes – February 2016

Subdivisions (d)(1) and (e)(2) are amended to replace references to the Maine Rules of Criminal Procedure with references to the Maine Rules of Unified Criminal Procedure, which became effective statewide on July 1, 2015.

Subdivision (k) clarifies the process for applicants to seek an extension of time for admission to the bar and ensures that notice is provided to the Board, which has an interest in the issue.

2. This amendment shall be effective on February 5, 2016.

Dated: February 5, 2016

FOR THE COURT*

/s/

LEIGH I. SAUFLEY

Chief Justice

DONALD G. ALEXANDER

ANDREW M. MEAD

ELLEN A. GORMAN

JOSEPH M. JABAR

JEFFREY L. HJELM

THOMAS E. HUMPHREY

Associate Justices

* This Rule Amendment Order was approved after conference of the Court, all Justices concurring therein.