

RULE 3
APPLICANTS TO TAKE THE BAR EXAMINATION

(a) Prerequisite for Admission. Every person desiring to be admitted to the Bar of the State of Washington must be of good moral character and must qualify for and pass a bar examination.

(b) Qualification for Bar Examination. To qualify to sit for the bar examination, a person must present satisfactory proof of either (i) graduation from a law school approved by the Board of Governors, or (ii) completion of the law clerk program prescribed by these rules, or (iii) admission to the practice of law by examination, together with current good standing, in any state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia or any jurisdiction where the common law of England is the basis of its jurisprudence, and active legal experience for at least 3 of the 5 years immediately preceding the filing of the application. "Active legal experience" shall mean experience either in the active practice of law, or as a teacher at an approved law school, or as a judge of a court of general or appellate jurisdiction, or any combination thereof, in a state or territory of the United States or in the District of Columbia or in any jurisdiction where the common law of England is the basis of its jurisprudence.

(c) Exceptions. The Board of Governors may, in its discretion, withhold permission for an otherwise qualified person to sit for the bar examination, until completion of an inquiry into the applicants character and fitness, if the applicant (i) has ever been convicted of a "serious crime" as defined in ELC 7.1(a)(2), or (ii) has ever been disbarred or is presently suspended from the practice of law for disciplinary reasons in any jurisdiction, or (iii) has previously been denied admission to the Bar in this or any other jurisdiction for reasons other than failure to pass a bar examination. The Board of Governors may also withhold permission to sit for the bar examination where for any other reason there are serious and substantial questions regarding the present moral character or fitness of the applicant. The Board of Governors may refer such matters to the Character and Fitness Board for investigation and hearing pursuant to these rules.

(d) Forms; Fees; Filing. Every applicant to take the bar examination shall:

- (1) Execute and file an application, in the form and manner and within the time limits that may be prescribed by the Board of Governors;
- (2) Pay upon the filing of the application such fees as may be set by the Board of Governors with the approval of the Supreme Court; and
- (3) Furnish whatever additional information or proof may be required in the course of investigating the applicant.

(e) Disclosure of Records. Unless expressly authorized by the Supreme Court or by the bar applicant, bar application forms and related records, documents, and proceedings shall not be disclosed, except as necessary to conduct an investigation and hearing pursuant to rule 7.

[Amended effective August 1, 1968; September 27, 1968; March 10, 1971; July 1, 1976; September 1, 1984; May 10, 1990; September 1, 1992; October 1, 2002; September 1, 2005; September 1, 2006.]
