APR RULE 6
LAW CLERK PROGRAM

(a) Applicants. Every applicant for enrollment in the law clerk program shall:

(1) Be of good moral character;

(2) Present satisfactory proof of having been granted a bachelors degree, other than a bachelor of laws, by a college or university offering such a degree on the basis of a 4-year course of study;

(3) Obtain regular, full-time employment in the State of Washington as a law clerk with (i) a judge of a court of general, limited, or appellate jurisdiction, or (ii) a lawyer or firm of lawyers licensed to practice in this state and actively engaged in the practice of law;

(4) Submit on forms provided by the Bar Association (i) an application for admission to the law clerk program, (ii) the tutors statement required by subsection (b)(3) of this rule, and (iii) an application fee; and

(5) Appear for an interview, provide any additional information or proof, and cooperate in any investigation, as may be deemed relevant by the Board of Governors; and

(6) Pay such fees as may be set by the Board of Governors with the approval of the Supreme Court.

(b) Tutors. A lawyer or judge may act as a tutor for only one law clerk at a time. To be eligible to act as a tutor in the law clerk program, a lawyer or judge shall:

(1) Be an active member in good standing of the Bar Association, or be a judicial member who is currently elected or appointed to an elected position, provided that if a disciplinary sanction has been imposed upon the lawyer or judge within the 5 years immediately preceding approval of the law clerk's application for enrollment, the Board of Governors shall have the discretion to accept or reject the lawyer or judge as tutor;

(2) Have been actively and continuously engaged in the

practice of law or have held the required judicial position for at least 10 years immediately preceding the filing of the law clerks application for enrollment; this may be a combination of active practice and judicial experience; and

(3) Provide a tutors statement certifying to the law clerk's employment and to the tutors eligibility, and agreeing to instruct and examine the law clerk in the curriculum prescribed by the Law Clerk Board with the approval of the Board of Governors.

(c) Length of Study. A law clerk, whose application for enrollment has been accepted by the Board of Governors, shall study for 4 calendar years. Each calendar year shall consist of 12 months, with a minimum of 120 hours of study each month, including the time spent in performing the duties of a law clerk. The tutor shall give personal supervision to the law clerk averaging at least 3 hours each week. "Personal supervision" is defined as time actually spent with the law clerk for the exposition and discussion of the law, the recitation of cases, and the critical analysis of the law clerk's written assignments.

(d) Course of Study. The subjects to be studied, the sequence in which they are to be studied, and any other matters pertaining thereto shall be as prescribed by the Law Clerk Board with the approval of the Board of Governors.

(e) Examinations. All law clerks shall:

(1) Each month, complete a written examination prepared, administered, and graded by the tutor. The examination shall be answered without research, assistance, or reference to source materials during the examination;

(2) Annually, or at such other intervals as may be established by the Law Clerk Board, appear with the tutor before the Law Clerk Board for an oral evaluation of the law clerks progress.

(f) Certificates. In addition to the tutor's statement required by section (b)(3) of this rule, the tutor shall submit, on forms provided by the Bar Association:

(1) A monthly certificate, accompanying the written examination, stating the number of hours the law clerk studied each week, the number of hours spent by the tutor in personal supervision each week, that the written examination was administered as required, and that, in the opinion of the tutor, the law clerk is

progressing satisfactorily; and

(2) At the conclusion of the law clerk's course of study, a certificate stating that the law clerk has completed the prescribed length and course of study, and, in the tutor's opinion, is qualified to take the bar examination and is competent to practice law.

(g) Termination. The Board of Governors may direct a law clerk to change tutors, and may terminate the enrollment of law clerks or remove tutors from the program. The Law Clerk Board may recommend to the Board of Governors that the enrollment of the law clerk in the program be terminated for:

(1) Failure to complete the prescribed length and course of study within 6 years from the date the law clerk's application for admission was accepted;

(2) Failure of the tutor to submit the monthly examinations and certificates at the end of each month in which they are due;

(3) Failure to comply with any of the requirements of the law clerk program; and

(4) Any other grounds deemed pertinent by the Law Clerk Board.

(h) Advanced Standing. The Board of Governors may grant advanced standing to an enrolled law clerk who has attended either an approved or a nonapproved law school.

(i) Effective Date. The revision of this rule shall not apply retroactively to any law clerk whose enrollment has been approved and accepted by the Board of Governors prior to the effective date of this revision. Each law clerk may complete the course of study under the version of the rule in effect on the date the application for enrollment to the law clerk program was accepted.

[Amended effective September 1, 1984; March 6, 1992; September 1, 1994; June 2, 1998; April 1, 2003; January 13, 2009.]