

NONMEMBER LAWYER LICENSES TO PRACTICE LAW

(a) In General. Lawyers admitted to the practice of law in any state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia or in any foreign jurisdiction, who do not meet the qualifications stated in APR 3, may engage in the limited practice of law in this state as provided in this rule. Lawyers permitted or licensed to practice law under this rule are not members of the Bar.

(b) Exception for Particular Action or Proceeding. A lawyer member in good standing of, and permitted to practice law in, the bar of any other state or territory of the United States or of the District of Columbia, or a lawyer who is providing legal services for no fee through a qualified legal services provider pursuant to rule 8(f), may appear as a lawyer in any action or proceeding only

(i) with the permission of the court or tribunal in which the action or proceeding is pending, and

(ii) in association with an active lawyer member of the Bar, who shall be the lawyer of record therein, responsible for the conduct thereof, and present at proceedings unless excused by the court or tribunal. The requirement in (ii) is waived for a lawyer who is a full-time active duty military officer serving in the office of a Staff Judge Advocate of the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, or Coast Guard, or a Region Legal Service Office or a Defense Service Office, or as Special Victims' Counsel or Victims' Legal Counsel for any branch of the United States Armed Forces, located in the State of Washington.

(1) An application to appear as such a lawyer shall be made by written motion to the court or tribunal before whom the action or proceeding is pending, in a form approved by the Bar, which shall include certification by the lawyer seeking permission under this rule and the associated Washington lawyer that the requirements of this rule have been complied with, and shall state the date on which the fee and any mandatory assessment required in part (2) were paid, or state that the fee and assessment were waived pursuant to part (2). The motion shall be heard by the court or tribunal after such notice to the Bar and payment of fees and assessments as required in part (2) below, unless waived pursuant to part (2), and to adverse parties as the court or tribunal shall direct. Payment of the required fee and assessment shall be necessary only upon a lawyer's first application to any court or tribunal in the same case. The court or tribunal shall enter an order granting or refusing the motion, and, if the motion is refused, the court or tribunal shall state its reasons.

(2) The lawyer making the motion shall submit a copy of the motion to the Bar accompanied by

(A) a nonrefundable fee in each case in an amount equal to the license fee required of active lawyer members of the Bar, and

(B) the Client Protection Fund assessment as required of active lawyer members of the Bar.

(3) Payment of the fee and assessment shall be necessary only upon a lawyer's first motion to any court or tribunal in the same case. The associated Washington lawyer shall be jointly responsible for payment of the fee and assessment. The fee and assessment shall be waived for:

(A) a lawyer providing legal services for no fee through a qualified legal services provider pursuant to rule 8(f),

(B) a lawyer rendering service for no fee in either a bar association or governmentally sponsored legal services organization or in a public defender's office or similar program

providing legal services to indigents and only in that capacity, or

(C) a lawyer who is a full-time active duty military officer serving in the office of a Staff Judge Advocate of the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, or Coast Guard, or a Region Legal Service Office or as Special Victims' Counsel or Victims' Legal Counsel for any branch of the United States Armed Forces, located in the State of Washington, and who is not receiving any compensation from clients in addition to the military pay to which they are already entitled.

(4) The Bar shall maintain a public record of all motions for permission to practice pursuant to this rule.

(5) No member of the Bar shall lend their name for the purpose of, or in any way assist in, avoiding the effect of this rule.

(6) *Exception for Indian Child Welfare Cases.* A member in good standing of, and permitted to practice law in, the bar of any other state or territory of the United States or of the District of Columbia may appear as a lawyer in an action or proceeding, and shall not be required to comply with the association of counsel and fee and assessment requirements of subsection (b) of this rule, if the applicant establishes to the satisfaction of the Court that:

(A) The applicant seeks to appear in a Washington court for the limited purpose of participating in a "child custody proceeding" as defined by RCW 13.38.040, pursuant to the Washington State Indian Child Welfare Act, ch.13.38 RCW, or by 25 U.S.C. § 1903, pursuant to the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, 25 U.S.C. § 1901 *et seq.*;

(B) The applicant represents an "Indian tribe" as defined by RCW 13.38.040 or 25 U.S.C. § 1903;

(C) The Indian child's tribe has executed an affidavit asserting the tribe's intent to intervene and participate in the state court proceeding and affirming that under tribal law (i) the child is a member or (ii) the child is eligible for membership and the biological parent of the child is a member; and

(D) The applicant has provided, or will provide within (7) days of appearing on the case, written notice to the Washington State Bar of their appearance in the case. Such written notice shall be by providing in writing the following information: the cause number and name of the case; the attorney's name, employer, and contact information; and the bar number and jurisdiction of the applicant's license to practice law.

(c) Exception for Indigent Representation. A member in good standing of the bar of another state or territory of the United States or of the District of Columbia, who is eligible to apply for admission as a lawyer under APR 3 in this state, while rendering service in either a bar association or governmentally sponsored legal services organization or in a public defender's office or similar program providing legal services to indigents and only in that capacity, may, upon application and approval, practice law and appear as a lawyer before the courts of this state in any matter, litigation, or administrative proceeding, subject to the following conditions and limitations:

(1) Application to practice under this rule shall be made to the Bar, and the applicant shall be subject to the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct and to the Rules of Professional Conduct.

(2) In any such matter, litigation, or administrative proceeding, the applicant shall be associated with an active lawyer member of the Bar, who shall be the lawyer of record and responsible for the conduct of the matter, litigation, or administrative proceeding.

(3) The applicant shall either apply for and take the first available lawyer bar examination after the date the applicant was granted authorization to practice under this rule, or already have filed an application for admission by motion or Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) score transfer.

(4) The applicant's authorization to practice under this rule (i) may be terminated by the Supreme Court at any time with or without cause, or (ii) shall be terminated automatically for failure to take or pass the required lawyer bar examination, or (iii) shall be terminated for failure to become an active lawyer member of the Bar within 60 days of the date the lawyer bar examination results are made public, or (iv) shall be terminated automatically upon denial of the application for admission, or (v) in any event, shall be terminated within 1 year from the original date the applicant was authorized to practice law in this state under this rule.

(d) [Reserved.]

(e) [Reserved.]

(f) Exception for House Counsel. A lawyer admitted to the practice of law in any jurisdiction may apply to the Bar for a limited license to practice law as in-house counsel in this state when the lawyer is employed in Washington as a lawyer exclusively for a profit or not for profit corporation, including its subsidiaries and affiliates, association, or other business entity, that is not a government entity, and whose lawful business consists of activities other than the practice of law or the provision of legal services. The lawyer shall apply by:

(i) filing an application in the form and manner that may be prescribed by the Bar;

(ii) presenting satisfactory proof of (I) admission to the practice of law and current good standing in any jurisdiction and (II) good moral character and fitness to practice;

(iii) filing an affidavit from an officer, director, or general counsel of the applicant's employer in this state attesting to the fact the applicant is employed as a lawyer for the employer, including its subsidiaries and affiliates, and the nature of the employment conforms to the requirements of this rule;

(iv) paying the application fees required of lawyer applicants for admission under APR 3; and

(v) furnishing whatever additional information or proof that may be required in the course of investigating the applicant.

(1) Upon approval of the application by the Bar, the lawyer shall take the Oath of Attorney, pay the current year's annual license fee and any mandatory assessments required of active lawyer members. The Bar shall transmit its recommendation to the Supreme Court which may enter an order granting the lawyer a license to engage in the limited practice of law under this section.

(2) The practice of a lawyer licensed under this section shall be limited to practice exclusively for the employer, including its subsidiaries and affiliates, furnishing the affidavit required by the rule and shall not include (i) appearing before a court or tribunal as a person admitted to practice law in this state, and (ii) offering legal services or advice to the public, or (iii) holding oneself out to be so engaged or authorized.

(3) All business cards and employer letterhead used by a lawyer licensed under this section shall state clearly that the lawyer is licensed to practice in Washington as in-house counsel.

(4) A lawyer licensed under this section shall pay to the Bar an annual license fee in the maximum amount required of active lawyer members and any mandatory assessments required

of active lawyer members of the Bar.

(5) The practice of a lawyer licensed under this section shall be subject to the Rules of Professional Conduct, the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct, and to all other laws and rules governing lawyers admitted to the active practice of law in this state. Jurisdiction shall continue whether or not the lawyer retains the limited license and irrespective of the residence of the lawyer.

(6) The lawyer shall promptly report to the Bar a change in employment, a change in admission or license status in any jurisdiction where the applicant has been admitted to the practice of law, or the commencement of any formal disciplinary proceeding in any jurisdiction where the applicant has been admitted to the practice of law.

(7) The limited license granted under this section shall be automatically terminated when employment by the employer furnishing the affidavit required by this rule is terminated, the lawyer has been admitted to the practice of law pursuant to any other provision of the APR, the lawyer fails to comply with the terms of this rule, the lawyer fails to maintain current good standing in at least one other jurisdiction where the lawyer has been admitted to the practice of law, or on suspension or disbarment for discipline in any jurisdiction where the lawyer has been admitted to the practice of law. If a lawyer's employment is terminated but the lawyer, within three months from the last day of employment, is employed by an employer filing the affidavit required by (iii), the license shall be reinstated.

(8) A lawyer admitted in another United States jurisdiction and authorized to provide legal services under this Rule may provide legal services in this jurisdiction for no fee through a Bar qualified legal services provider, as that term is defined in APR 1. If such services involve representation before a court or tribunal, the lawyer shall seek permission under APR 8(b) and any fees for such permission shall be waived. The prohibition against compensation in this paragraph shall not prevent a qualified legal services provider from reimbursing a lawyer authorized to practice under this rule for actual expenses incurred while rendering legal services under this pro bono exception. In addition, a qualified legal services provider shall be entitled to receive all court awarded attorney's fees for pro bono representation rendered by the lawyer.

(g) [Reserved.]

[Adopted effective February 12, 1965; Amended effective May 20, 1966; March 10, 1971; July 9, 1982; September 1, 1984; October 11, 1985; September 1, 1998; March 9, 1999; March 5, 2002; October 1, 2002; December 24, 2002; June 24, 2003; November 25, 2003; September 1, 2004; September 1, 2006; January 1, 2007, May 6, 2008; September 1, 2009; January 1, 2014; September 1, 2015; September 1, 2017; December 5, 2017; September 1, 2018; April 21, 2020; January 1, 2023.]