Order

Michigan Supreme Court
Lansing, Michigan

Megan K. Cavanagh,
Chief Justice

Brian K. Zahra
Richard H. Bernstein
Elizabeth M. Welch
Kyra H. Bolden
Kimberly A. Thomas
Noah P. Hood,
Justices

September 2, 2026

ADM File No. 2025-22

Amendment of Rule 2(A) of the Rules for the Board of Law Examiners and Proposed Amendments of Rule 1, Rule 2(C), (D), and (E), Rule 5, and Rule 8 of the Rules for the Board of Law Examiners

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On order of the Court, the following amendment of *only* Rule 2(A) of the Rules for the Board of Law Examiners is adopted with immediate effect.

Concurrently, individuals are invited to comment on the form or the merits of the amendment of Rule 2(A) and the proposed amendments of Rule 1, Rule 2(C), (D), and (E), Rule 5, and Rule 8 of the Rules for the Board of Law Examiners during the usual comment period. The Court welcomes the views of all. This matter will also be considered at a public hearing. The notices and agendas for each public hearing are posted on the Public Administrative Hearings page.

Immediate adoption of Rule 2(A) of this proposal does not necessarily mean that the Court will retain the amendment in its present form following the public comment period. Publication of this proposal does not mean that the Court will issue an order on the subject, nor does it imply probable adoption of the proposal in its present form.

[Additions to the text are indicated in underlining and deleted text is shown by strikeover.]

Rule 1. General Requirements.

(A) An applicant for admission to the practice of law must

(A)-(C) [Unchanged except for renumbering as (1)-(3).]

(B) The following definitions apply when used in these rules:

(1) "Board" means the Board of Law Examiners.

(2) "Confidential" means that the personally identifiable information contained in a document filed with the Board is accessible only to the applicant, the

Board, the State Bar of Michigan Character and Fitness Division, and the National Conference of Bar Examiners.

(3) "Official results" are the results released to an applicant who has met all of the Board's requirements to receive their final bar examination score."

Rule 2. Admission by Examination.

(A) An application must be filed by November 1 for the February examination, or March 1 for the July examination. Late applications will be accepted until December 1~~5~~ for the February examination, or May 1~~5~~ for the July examination. An application must be accompanied by payment of the fee. All materials filed are confidential.

(B) [Unchanged.]

(C) The State Bar character and fitness committee will investigate each applicant. The applicant must disclose any criminal conviction which carries a possible penalty of incarceration in jail or prison that has not been reversed or vacated and comply with the committee's requirements and requests. The committee will report the results of its investigation to the Board. If the committee report shows that an applicant lacks the necessary character and fitness, the Board will review the application, record, and report. If the Board accepts the negative report or rejects a favorable report, the applicant is entitled to a hearing before the Board and may use the Board's subpoena power. The Board may permit an applicant to take the examination before the character and fitness committee reports. The Board will release the applicant's official results~~grade~~ if character and fitness committee approval is obtained and all other requirements are met.

(D) Every applicant for admission must achieve a passing score, as determined by the B~~b~~oard, on the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE) prepared and administered by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE).

(E) The Board may permit an applicant entering the armed forces before the examination immediately following graduation to take an earlier examination. The applicant must have completed, before the examination, $2^1/_2$ years full-time or $3^1/_2$ years part-time study. The Board will release the applicant's score~~grade~~ when the school certifies the applicant's graduation.

(F) [Unchanged.]

Rule 5. Admission Without Examination.

(A)-(G) [Unchanged.]

(H) Materials filed with the Board are confidential.

Rule 8. Recertification.

An applicant for recertification shall file an application and other material required by the Board. After a hearing the Board shall either recertify the applicant or require that the applicant pass the examination described in Rule 3. An applicant may use the Board's subpoena power for the hearing. An applicant who is an inactive State Bar member or who had previously voluntarily resigned from the State Bar or who previously elected emeritus status, and who has been employed in another jurisdiction in one of the ways listed in Rule 5(B)(5) is entitled to recertification by the Board. Materials filed with the Board are confidential.

Staff Comment (ADM File No. 2025-22): Adopted with immediate effect and concurrent comment period, the amendment of BLE Rule 2(A) moves the registration deadline for the bar examination to allow for earlier processing of bar applications. The remainder of the proposed amendments of BLE Rule 1, Rule 2(C), (D), and (E), Rule 5, and Rule 8 would provide some definitions and clarify terms used in the rules. The proposal would also clarify that all materials filed with the Board are confidential.

The staff comment is not an authoritative construction by the Court. In addition, adoption of a new rule or amendment in no way reflects a substantive determination by this Court.

A copy of this order will be provided to the Secretary of the State Bar and to the State Court Administrator so that they can make the notifications specified in MCR 1.201. Written comments on this proposal may be submitted by **January 1, 2027**.

The Court asks commenters to submit written comments via the Court's website to the extent possible. **To submit a comment via the Court's website**, click on the "Comment on 2025-22" button under this proposal on the Court's Proposed & Adopted Orders on Administrative Matters webpage. The Court also accepts comments by email. **To submit a comment by email**, please attach a Microsoft Word document to your email and send to ADMcomment@courts.mi.gov and refer to ADM File No. 2025-22. If you are unable to submit a written comment online or by email, the Court will accept comments during the written comment period mailed to P.O. Box 30052, Lansing, MI 48909. For more information on submitting public comments regarding Michigan Supreme Court rule proposals, see the Public Comments on Court Rule Proposals webpage.

Written comments may be posted on the One Court of Justice website under the chapter(s) affected by this proposal.

I, Elizabeth Kingston-Miller, Clerk of the Michigan Supreme Court, certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the order entered at the direction of the Court.

September 2, 2026

Clerk