CHAPTER 31
ADMISSION TO THE BAR

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CHAPTER 31
ADMISSION TO THE BAR

Rule 31.1 Board of law examiners.

31.1(1) *Composition.*

a. The board of law examiners shall consist of five persons admitted to practice law in this state and two persons not admitted to practice law in this state. Members shall be appointed by the supreme court. A member admitted to practice law shall be actively engaged in the practice of law in this state.

b. Appointment shall be for three-year terms and shall commence on July 1 of the year in which the appointment is made. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term by appointment of the supreme court. Members shall serve no more than three terms or nine years, whichever is less.

c. The members thus appointed shall sign a written oath to faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of the office and shall file the oath in the office of professional regulation. They shall be compensated for their services in accordance with the provisions of Iowa Code section 602.10106.

d. The supreme court may appoint temporary examiners to assist the board, who shall receive their actual and necessary expenses to be paid from funds appropriated to the board.

e. The members of the board of law examiners and the temporary examiners shall be paid a per diem in an amount the supreme court sets for each day spent in conducting or grading the examinations of the applicants for admission to the bar and in performing administrative and character and fitness investigation duties. They shall also be reimbursed for additional expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of such duties.

f. The assistant director for admissions of the office of professional regulation shall serve as the principal administrator for the board of law examiners. Wherever in this chapter a reference to the "assistant director" appears, it shall refer to the assistant director for admissions of the office of professional regulation.

g. The board shall have an administrative committee consisting of the chair, the director of the office of professional regulation and a nonattorney member of the board appointed by the court. The administrative committee shall, at least 60 days prior to the start of each fiscal year, submit to the court for consideration and approval a budget covering the board's operations for the upcoming fiscal year. Approval of the budget by the court shall authorize payment as provided in the budget. A separate bank account designated as the admissions operating account shall be maintained for payment of authorized expenditures as provided in the approved budget. Fees or other funds received or collected as directed in this chapter or in accordance with an approved interagency agreement shall be deposited in the admissions operating account for payment of the board's authorized expenditures.

h. Claims against members of the board and the director, assistant directors, and the staff of the office of professional regulation are subject to the Iowa Tort Claims Act set forth in Iowa Code chapter 669.

i. The board of law examiners and its members, employees, and agents; temporary law examiners; and the director, assistant directors, and the staff of the office of professional regulation are immune from all civil liability for damages for conduct, communications, and omissions occurring in the performance of and within the scope of their official duties relating to the examination, character and fitness qualification, and licensing of persons seeking to be admitted to the practice of law.

j. Records, statements of opinion, and other information regarding an applicant for admission to the bar communicated by any entity, including any person, firm, or institution, without malice, to the board of law examiners, its members, employees, or agents, or to the director, assistant director, and the staff of the office of professional regulation are privileged, and civil suits for damages predicated thereon may not be instituted.

31.1(2) *Duties.*

a. The board may adopt rules to govern the method of conducting the bar examination. Such rules shall be consistent with these rules and are subject to supreme court approval.

b. The authority to pass on the sufficiency of applications for permission to take the bar examination is vested in the board of law examiners, subject to supreme court review.

c. The members of the board authorized to grade examinations shall make the final decision on passage or failure of each applicant, subject to the rules of the supreme court. The board shall also recommend to the supreme court for admission to practice law in this state all applicants who pass the bar examination and the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination, and who meet the requisite character and fitness requirements. The board, in its discretion, may permit an applicant

to take the bar examination prior to finally approving that person as to character and fitness. It may impose specific conditions for admission based on its evaluation of character and fitness and shall withhold recommendation of admission until those conditions are satisfied. An applicant who passes the bar examination shall satisfy such character and fitness conditions and any other conditions imposed by the board within one year of the date of the applicant's passage of the examination. This period may be extended by the board upon the applicant's showing of good cause. If any conditions imposed are not satisfied within the applicable period of time, the applicant's passage of the examination is null and void and the applicant must retake the bar examination in order to gain admission. The supreme court shall make the final determination as to those persons who shall be admitted to practice in this state.

d. An applicant who has passed the examination and is eligible for admission must be administered the lawyer's oath by a supreme court justice within one year of the date the bar examination score was posted or the date of fulfilling all eligibility requirements, whichever is later. An applicant who fails to be administered the oath within this deadline will no longer be eligible for admission and the applicant's passage of the examination will be null and void. This deadline may only be extended by the board upon a showing of exceptional circumstances.

[Court Order July 2, 1975; September 20, 1976; April 17, 1990, effective June 1, 1990; January 17, 1995, effective March 1, 1995; June 5, 1996, effective July 1, 1996; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; February 14, 2008, effective April 1, 2008; June 5, 2008, effective July 1, 2008; February 20, 2012; December 10, 2012]

Rule 31.2 Registration by law students.

31.2(1) Every person intending to apply for admission to the bar of this state by examination shall, by January 15 of the year after the person commences the study of law in an accredited law school, register with the Iowa board of law examiners on forms furnished by the board and pay the required fee of $40. The board may designate data submitted as a confidential record. Any confidential data shall be segregated by the board and the assistant director from the portion of the registration filed as a public record.

31.2(2) If any person shall fail to so register, the board may, if it finds that a strict enforcement of this rule would work a hardship and that sufficient excuse exists for failing to comply with rule 31.2(1), waive the requirements of this rule as to the date of filing. Refusal of the board to waive such requirement shall be subject to supreme court review. If the registration is not on file by the January 15 registration deadline set forth in rule 31.2(1), but is on file by December 1 immediately preceding the registrant's July examination or July 1 immediately preceding the registrant's February examination, the registration fee will be $150. If the registration is not timely filed, but is on file by April 1 immediately preceding the registrant's July examination or November 1 immediately preceding the registrant's February examination, the registration fee will be $250. This fee is not refundable and shall be in addition to the fee required under rule 31.6. The failure to file the registration by the January 15 deadline of rule 31.2(1) may result in delays in conducting the board's character and fitness investigation. The board will not expedite its character and fitness investigation because the registration form is not timely filed. The board may conclude the registrant should not be permitted to take the bar examination until the investigation is completed. The registrant will not be eligible for admission to the bar until the character and fitness process is completed.

31.2(3) Registration as a law student under this rule is not deemed an application for permission to take the bar examination.

31.2(4) The registration shall be accompanied by letters prepared by three persons not related to applicant by consanguinity or affinity attesting to the registrant's good moral character. The letters must be signed and shall include contact information for the reference provider. The letters shall state how the reference knows the registrant, how long the reference has known the registrant, and the basis for concluding the registrant possesses good moral character.

31.2(5) The board shall review each registration and may require the personal presence of any registrant at such time and place as the board may prescribe for interview and examination concerning the registrant's character and fitness. The board may at any time find it advisable to make further inquiry into the character, fitness, and general qualifications of the registrant, and with regard to each registration, the board shall have all of the powers given it in respect to inquiry and investigation of candidates for admission to the bar.

[Court Order July 2, 1975; September 20, 1976; December 16, 1983—received for publication May 30, 1984; February 16, 1990, effective March 15, 1990; April 16, 1992, effective July 1, 1992; March 26, 1993,

effective July 1, 1993; December 2, 1993; June 5, 1996, effective July 1, 1996; (Prior to July 1, 1996, Court Rule 112); November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; June 5, 2008, effective July 1, 2008; April 9, 2009; December 10, 2012; August 21, 2013; April 25, 2014]

Rule 31.3 Required examinations.

31.3(1) *Iowa bar examination.* Beginning with the February 2009 administration of the Iowa bar examination, the provisions of this rule shall apply to the dates and content of the bar examination.

a. Written examinations for admission to the bar shall be held in Polk County, Iowa, commencing with a mandatory orientation session on the Monday preceding the last Wednesday in February and on the Monday preceding the last Wednesday in July.

b. The examination shall consist of three components: the Multistate Essay Examination (MEE), the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE), and the Multistate Performance Test (MPT). There shall be one three-hour MEE session consisting of six questions, one MPT session consisting of two 90-minute performance tests, and two MBE sessions consisting of 100 multiple-choice questions each. The MEE portion of the examination shall consist of questions selected by the board from the following subjects:

(1) Business associations
1. Agency and partnership
2. Corporations and LLCs
(2) Conflict of laws
(3) Constitutional law (Federal)
(4) Contracts (including Uniform Commercial Code (Sales) (Art. 2))
(5) Criminal law and procedure
(6) Evidence (based on the Federal rules of evidence)
(7) Family law
(8) Federal civil procedure
(9) Real property
(10) Torts
(11) Trusts and Estates
1. Decedents' estates
2. Trusts and future interests
(12) Uniform Commercial Code
1. Negotiable instruments (Commercial Paper) (Art. 3)
2. Secured transactions (Art. 9)

Some MEE questions may include issues from more than one area of law. Conflict of laws issues are embedded in the other MEE topic areas. They do not appear as stand-alone questions. Uniform Commercial Code issues may require the applicants to know the general principles and applicable definitions set forth in Art. 1. Complete subject matter outlines for the MEE are available on the website of National Conference of Bar Examiners.

c. Applicants must achieve a combined scaled score of 266 or above in order to pass the examination. All passes and all failures shall be on a vote of at least four members of the board of law examiners admitted to practice law in Iowa.

31.3(2) *Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination.* Every applicant for admission to practice law in the state of Iowa must have on file with the assistant director examination results from the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE) administered by the National Conference of Bar Examiners no later than April 1 preceding the July examination or November 1 preceding the February examination. Each applicant must obtain a scaled score of at least 80 in order to be admitted to practice law in Iowa. MPRE scores shall only be accepted for three years after the date the MPRE is taken.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that a score report from the National Conference of Bar Examiners is sent to the assistant director by the date indicated above. An applicant who cannot meet the deadline for posting a passing MPRE score must file a petition asking for permission to post a passing score after the deadline. The petition must state why the score could not be timely posted and indicate when the applicant will take the MPRE. A petition to post the score prior to the examination may be addressed by the board, but a petition to post a score after the examination must be addressed by the supreme court.

[Court Order July 2, 1975; September 17, 1984; October 23, 1985, effective November 1, 1985; January 3, 1996; June 5, 1996, effective July 1, 1996; (Prior to July 1, 1996, Court Rule 101); July 26, 1996; September

12, 1996; October 3, 1997; July 11, 2000; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; August 28, 2006; June 5, 2008, effective July 1, 2008; September 17, 2008; December 10, 2012]

Rule 31.4 Transfer and banking of MBE scaled scores.

31.4(1) Applicants may transfer any MBE scaled score they received in another jurisdiction from one of the last four administrations of the MBE immediately preceding the deadline for filing the application for the Iowa bar examination. Applicants must indicate their intent to transfer an MBE score on their bar application. The applicant's MBE score from a prior examination must be certified from the other jurisdiction or the National Conference of Bar Examiners by November 1 preceding the February examination and by April 1 preceding the July examination. Applicants may not transfer MBE scaled scores from a concurrent administration of the test.

31.4(2) Applicants may rely upon an MBE scaled score obtained on one of the last four Iowa bar examination administrations immediately preceding the deadline for filing the application for a subsequent bar examination. Applicants choosing to rely upon their prior MBE scaled score shall indicate their intention on the bar application form.

31.4(3) Applicants who choose to rely on a transferred or banked MBE scaled score shall only be required to take the MPT and MEE portions of the bar examination. Such applicants will not be permitted to take the MBE portion of the examination. Applicants who fail to meet the above deadlines for indicating their intention to transfer or bank MBE scores will not be allowed to do so and must sit for all portions of the Iowa examination. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the scaled MBE score is sent to the assistant director by the pertinent date indicated above.

[Court Order June 5, 1996, effective July 1, 1996; (Prior to July 1, 1996, Court Rule 102); November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; June 5, 2008, effective July 1, 2008; September 17, 2008]

Rule 31.5 Bar examination application—contents and deadlines.

31.5(1) The board of law examiners and the assistant director shall prepare such forms as may be necessary for application for examination. The application shall require the applicant to demonstrate the applicant is a person of honesty, integrity, and trustworthiness, and one who appreciates and will adhere to the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct as adopted by the supreme court, together with such other information as the board and the assistant director determine necessary and proper.

31.5(2) Every applicant for admission to the bar shall make application, under oath, and upon a form furnished by the assistant director. The applicant shall file the application with the assistant director no later than April 1 preceding the July examination or November 1 preceding the February examination. An applicant who fails the Iowa bar examination and wants to take the next examination must file a new application within the above deadlines or within 30 days of the date the applicant's score is posted in the office of professional regulation, whichever is later. There shall be no waiver of these deadlines. If any changes occur after the application is filed that affect the applicant's answers, the applicant must amend the application. A new and complete application shall be filed for each examination for admission.

31.5(3) The board may designate portions of the data submitted for this purpose by the applicant or third parties as a confidential record. The board and the assistant director shall segregate that portion of the application data deemed confidential from the portion which is filed as a public record. In the event of a request for a hearing on character or fitness under rule 31.11(4) following an initial determination by the board, it may designate any additional information received at the hearing and all proceedings before the board as a confidential record.

[Court Order October 14, 1968; July 2, 1975; November 21, 1977; March 20, 1987, effective June 1, 1987; February 16, 1990, effective March 15, 1990; March 26, 1993, effective July 1, 1993; June 5, 1996, effective July 1, 1996; (Prior to July 1, 1996, Court Rule 103); November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; April 20, 2005, effective July 1, 2005; June 20, 2007, effective July 1, 2007; June 5, 2008, effective July 1, 2008; September 17, 2008; December 10, 2012]

Rule 31.6 Fee. Every applicant for admission to the bar upon examination shall, as a part of the application, remit to the Iowa board of law examiners an application fee. For applicants not previously admitted to practice law in any other state or the District of Columbia, the fee shall be $425. For applicants previously admitted to practice law in another state or the District of Columbia, the fee shall be $525. This fee is not refundable and cannot be applied to a subsequent application.

[Court Order July 2, 1975; December 16, 1983—received for publication May 30, 1984; April 16, 1992, effective July 1, 1992; March 26, 1993, effective July 1, 1993; June 5, 1996, effective July 1, 1996; (Prior

to July 1, 1996, Court Rule 113); October 11, 2001; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; August 21, 2013]

Rule 31.7 Affidavit of intent to practice. All applicants for the Iowa bar examination shall demonstrate a bona fide intention to practice law in Iowa. This showing must be by affidavit made before an officer authorized to administer oaths and having a seal.

The affidavit must include the applicant's designation of the clerk of the supreme court as the applicant's agent for service of process in Iowa for all purposes.

[Court Order July 2, 1975; November 21, 1977; October 28, 1982; December 30, 1983; April 25, 1985; March 23, 1994, effective July 1, 1994; June 5, 1996, effective July 1, 1996; (Prior to July 1, 1996, Court Rule 105); November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002]

Rule 31.8 Degree requirement. No person shall be permitted to take the examination for admission without proof that the person has received the degree of LL.B. or J.D. from a reputable law school fully approved by the American Bar Association. Proof of this requirement shall be by affidavit of the dean of such law school, and shall show that the applicant has actually and in good faith pursued the study of law resulting in the degree required by this rule. The affidavit must be made before an officer authorized to administer oaths and having a seal.

If an applicant is a student in such a law school and expects to receive the degree of LL.B. or J.D. within 45 days from the first day of the July or February examination, the applicant shall be permitted to take the examination upon the filing of an affidavit by the dean of said school stating that the dean expects the applicant to receive such a degree within this time. No certificate of admission or license to practice law shall be issued until the applicant has received the required degree. If the applicant fails to obtain the degree within the 45-day period, the results of the applicant's examination shall be null and void.

[Court Order July 15, 1963; February 9, 1967; December 30, 1971; February 15, 1973; July 2, 1975; November 21, 1977; June 13, 1983; June 5, 1996, effective July 1, 1996; (Prior to July 1, 1996, Court Rule 106); May 2, 1997; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002]

Rule 31.9 Moral character and fitness.

31.9(1) The Iowa board of law examiners shall make an investigation of the moral character and fitness of any applicant and may procure the services of any bar association, agency, organization, or individual qualified to make a moral character or fitness report.

a. Immediately upon the filing of the application, the chair of the Iowa board of law examiners shall notify the president of a local bar association and the county attorney of the county in which the applicant resides of the filing of the application. If either of said officers is possessed of information which reflects adversely on the moral character or fitness of the applicant, such information shall be transmitted to the chair of the board of law examiners not less than 60 days in advance of the holding of the examination.

b. The Iowa board of law examiners shall, subject to supreme court review, determine whether or not the applicant is of good moral character and fitness. In making its determination, the board shall consider the applicant's candor in the application process and in any interactions with the board or its staff.

31.9(2) *Denial of permission to take bar examination; denial of recommendation for admission.* When the board of law examiners determines that any person who registers or makes application should not be permitted to take a bar examination, or that an applicant who has passed a bar examination should not be recommended for admission to practice law in Iowa, the board shall notify the applicant in writing of its determination.

a. The notice shall provide that the applicant is entitled to a hearing to challenge the determination upon filing a written request for hearing with the assistant director within 10 days after service of the notice.

b. The assistant director shall serve the notice on the applicant by mail to the address shown on the applicant's application.

c. If no request for hearing is filed, the board's determination shall be final and not subject to review.

d. If a request for hearing is filed, the chair of the board shall appoint an attorney member of the board to act as a hearing officer. The hearing officer shall promptly set a hearing, and the assistant

director shall notify the applicant by mail at least 10 days before the hearing date of the time and place of hearing.

e. Not less than 10 days before the hearing date, the board shall furnish the applicant with copies of all document and summaries of all other information the board relied on in making its determination.

f. The clerk of court in the county where the hearing is held shall have authority to issue any necessary subpoenas for the hearing.

g. At the hearing, the applicant shall have the right to appear in person and by counsel. The board may be represented by the attorney general of the state of Iowa or a duly appointed assistant attorney general. The hearing shall be reported. The hearing officer shall take judicial notice of the information the board considered in the case and shall consider such additional evidence and arguments as may be presented at the hearing. At the hearing, the board shall first present any additional evidence or information that it deems necessary to the proceeding. Thereafter the applicant shall present evidence. The attorney for the board may offer rebuttal evidence at the discretion of the hearing officer. In presiding at the hearing, the hearing officer shall have the power and authority administrative hearing officers possess generally.

h. Within 30 days after completion of the hearing, the hearing officer shall provide the board with a hearing transcript, exhibits, and findings of fact and conclusions of law. Based on this information, the board shall prepare and file its final determination with the assistant director. The assistant director shall, by mail, promptly notify the applicant of the board's final determination.

31.9(3) *Supreme court review.* Any applicant aggrieved by a final determination of the board made pursuant to rule 31.9(2) may file a petition requesting review of the determination in the supreme court within 20 days of the mailing of notice of final determination. The petition must be accompanied by a $150 fee. If no such petition is filed within the 20-day period, the board's determination shall not be subject to review. A petition for review shall state all claims of error and reasons for challenging the board's determination. The board shall transmit to the supreme court its files and complete record in the case. Unless the court orders otherwise, the petition shall be deemed submitted for the court's review on the record previously made. After consideration of the record, the court shall enter its order sustaining or denying the petition. The order of the court shall be conclusive. No subsequent application for admission by a person denied under rule 31.9(2) shall be considered by the board unless authorized by the court upon the applicant's motion accompanied by a prima facie showing of a substantial change of circumstances.

31.9(4) *Costs of review.* In the event an applicant or person who is registered petitions for review under rule 31.9(3) and is unsuccessful, the costs of the appeal shall be taxed against the unsuccessful applicant and judgment therefor may be entered in the district court of that person's county of residence, if an Iowa resident, or in the district court for Polk County if a nonresident.

31.9(5) *Failure to comply with support order.* The supreme court may refuse to issue a license to practice law to an applicant for admission to the bar by examination or on motion who fails to comply with a support order.

a. Procedure. The Child Support Recovery Unit (CSRU) shall file any certificate of noncompliance that involves an applicant with the clerk of the supreme court. The procedure, including notice to the applicant, shall be governed by Iowa Ct. R. 35.20(1), except that the notice shall refer to a refusal to issue a license to practice law to the applicant instead of a suspension of the attorney's license.

b. District court hearing. Upon receipt of an application for hearing from the applicant, the clerk of district court shall schedule a hearing to be held within 30 days of the date of filing of the application. All matters pertaining to the hearing shall be governed by Iowa Ct. R. 35.20(2).

c. Noncompliance certificate withdrawn. If a withdrawal of certificate of noncompliance is filed, the supreme court shall curtail any proceedings pursuant to the certificate of noncompliance, or, if necessary, shall immediately take such steps as are necessary to issue a license to the applicant if the applicant is otherwise eligible under rules of the supreme court.

d. Sharing information. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other rule or statute concerning the confidentiality of records, the clerk of the supreme court and the director of the office of professional regulation are authorized to share information with the CSRU for the sole purpose of allowing the CSRU to identify applicants subject to enforcement under Iowa Code chapter 252J or 598.

31.9(6) The supreme court may refuse to issue a license to practice law to an applicant for admission to the bar by examination or on motion who defaults on an obligation owed to or collected by the College Student Aid Commission.

a. Procedure. The College Student Aid Commission (the commission) shall file any certificate of noncompliance that involves an applicant with the clerk of the supreme court. The procedure, including notice to the applicant, shall be governed by Iowa Ct. R. 35.21(1), except that the notice shall refer to a refusal to issue a license to practice law to the applicant instead of a suspension of the attorney's license.

b. District court hearing. Upon receipt of an application for hearing from the applicant, the clerk of district court shall schedule a hearing to be held within 30 days of the date of filing of the application. All matters pertaining to the hearing shall be governed by Iowa Ct. R. 35.21(2).

c. Noncompliance certificate withdrawn. If a withdrawal of certificate of noncompliance is filed, the supreme court shall curtail any proceedings pursuant to the certificate of noncompliance, or, if necessary, shall immediately take such steps as are necessary to issue a license to the applicant if the applicant is otherwise eligible under rules of the court.

31.9(7) The supreme court may refuse to issue a license to practice law to an applicant for admission to the bar by examination or on motion who defaults on an obligation owed to or collected by the Centralized Collection Unit of the Department of Revenue (CCU).

a. Procedure. The CCU shall file any certificate of noncompliance that involves an applicant with the clerk of the supreme court. The procedure, including notice to the applicant, shall be governed by Iowa Ct. R. 35.22(1), except that the notice shall refer to a refusal to issue a license to practice law to the applicant instead of a suspension of the attorney's license.

b. District court hearing. Upon receipt of an application for hearing from the applicant, the clerk of the district court shall schedule a hearing to be held within 30 days of the date of filing of the application. All matters pertaining to the hearing shall be governed by Iowa Ct. R. 35.22(2).

c. Noncompliance certificate withdrawn. If a withdrawal of a certificate of noncompliance is filed, the supreme court shall curtail any proceedings pursuant to the certificate of noncompliance, or, if necessary, shall immediately take such steps as are necessary to issue a license to the applicant if the applicant is otherwise eligible under rules of the supreme court.

d. Sharing information. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other rule or statute concerning the confidentiality of records, the clerk of the supreme court and the director of the office of professional regulation are authorized to share information with the CCU for the sole purpose of allowing the CCU to identify applicants subject to enforcement under Iowa Code chapter 272D.

[Court Order July 2, 1975; June 5, 1996, effective July 1, 1996; (Prior to July 1, 1996, Court Rule 104); December 20, 1996; November 25, 1998; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; April 20, 2005, effective July 1, 2005; June 5, 2008, effective July 1, 2008; February 20, 2012; December 10, 2012]

Rule 31.10 Preservation of anonymity. Each applicant permitted to take the bar examination shall be randomly assigned a number at the beginning of the examination, by which number the applicant shall be known throughout the examination.

Either the assistant director or the director of the office of professional regulation, or their representatives, shall prepare a list of the applicants, showing the number assigned to each at the beginning of the examination, certify to such facts, seal said list in an envelope immediately after the beginning of said examination and retain the same sealed, in their possession, unopened until after the applicant's score has been properly recorded. The envelope shall then be opened in the presence of the Iowa board of law examiners and the correct name entered opposite the number assigned to each applicant, in the presence of the Iowa board of law examiners.

[Court Order July 2, 1975; June 5, 1996, effective July 1, 1996; (Prior to July 1, 1996, Court Rule 107); November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; June 5, 2008, effective July 1, 2008]

Rule 31.11 Automatic review.

31.11(1) *Score range for review.* An applicant whose combined, scaled score on the current examination is at least 260, but less than 266, shall have an automatic review of the written portion of the bar examination prior to release of the bar examination results.

31.11(2) *Procedures for automatic review.* The board shall apply the following procedures for applicants eligible for an automatic review:

a. The attorney members of the board and any temporary examiners the board may designate will review the applicant's written answers. The answers shall be submitted on an anonymous basis without oral argument or hearing. If it appears that an answer should receive a different score (whether higher or lower), that score will be used to determine the applicant's scaled score. The board shall maintain a record of any changes made to the scoring of the individual questions on review.

b. Following its review, the board shall recommend to the supreme court that the applicant be admitted to the practice of law in Iowa if the applicant's combined, scaled score after review is at least 266. An applicant whose combined, scaled score after review is 265 or below shall be deemed to have failed the examination.

31.11(3) *Supreme court review.* An unsuccessful applicant whose combined, scaled score on the bar examination is at least 260, but less than 266, may file a petition requesting review of the board's determination in the supreme court. However, the board's decision regarding an applicant's score is final and will not be reviewed by the court absent extraordinary circumstances. "Extraordinary circumstances" would include issues such as the board's refusal to correct a clear mathematical error, but would not include a claim that the board erred in the grade assigned to a particular answer. The petition shall be filed with the clerk of the supreme court and served upon the board. The petition must be filed within 20 days of the date the applicant's score is posted in the office of professional regulation and must be accompanied by a $150 fee. If no such petition is filed within the 20-day period, the board's determination shall not be subject to review. The petition for review shall identify in detail the extraordinary circumstances requiring supreme court review of the board's determination. Upon request of the court, the board shall transmit to the supreme court the complete record in the case. Unless the court orders otherwise, the petition shall be deemed submitted for the court's review on the record previously made. After consideration of the record, the court shall enter its order sustaining or denying the petition. The order of the court shall be conclusive. All documents submitted for the court's review, other than the applicant's petition, shall be confidential.

[Court Order July 2, 1975; September 20, 1976; April 25, 1985; March 31, 1986, effective May 1, 1986; April 17, 1990, effective June 1, 1990; June 5, 1996, effective July 1, 1996; (Prior to July 1, 1996, Court Rule 117.1) July 19, 1999; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; June 20, 2007, effective July 1, 2007; June 5, 2008, effective July 1, 2008; February 20, 2012; July 13, 2012]

Rule 31.12 Admission of attorneys from other jurisdictions—requirements and fees.

31.12(1) An applicant who meets the requirements of this rule and rule 31.13 may, in the discretion of the court, be admitted to the practice of law in this state without examination.

31.12(2) The applicant shall file the application with the National Conference of Bar Examiners through their online character and fitness application process unless an exception is granted by the Office of Professional Regulation. The applicant shall pay a nonrefundable administrative fee of $525 to the Office of Professional Regulation at the time of filing the application. The character investigation services of the National Conference of Bar Examiners shall be procured in all cases where application for admission on motion is made. The applicant shall pay the investigative fee required by the National Conference of Bar Examiners at the time of filing the application.

31.12(3) The application and supporting affidavits, which shall contain specific facts and details as opposed to conclusions and which shall be made before an officer authorized to administer oaths, must demonstrate the following:

a. The applicant has been admitted to the bar of any other state of the United States or the District of Columbia, has practiced law five full years while licensed within the seven years immediately preceding the date of the application, and still holds a license.

b. The applicant is a person of honesty, integrity, and trustworthiness, and one who will adhere to the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct. In evaluating this factor the court may consider any findings filed with the Office of Professional Regulation by the Commission on the Unauthorized Practice of Law pursuant to Iowa Ct. R .37.3.

c. The applicant is not currently subject to lawyer discipline in any other jurisdiction.

31.12(4) The applicant shall provide such information as the court deems necessary and proper in connection with the application. If any changes occur that affect the applicant's answers, the applicant must immediately amend the application.

31.12(5) The applicant shall designate the supreme court clerk for service of process.

31.12(6) For purposes of this rule, the practice of law shall include the following activities:

a. Representation of one or more clients in the practice of law.

b. Service as a lawyer with a local, state, or federal agency.

c. The teaching of law as a full-time instructor in a law school approved by the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association in this state or some other state.

d. The discharge of actual legal duties as a member of one of the armed services of the United States, if certified as the practice of law by the judge advocate general of such service.

e. Service as a judge in a federal, state, or local court of record.

f. Service as a judicial law clerk.

g. Service as corporate counsel.

h. Service as an employee or officer of any business, but only if such service would ordinarily constitute the practice of law and was performed in a jurisdiction in which the applicant has been admitted to practice.

31.12(7) For purposes of this rule, the practice of law shall not include work that, as undertaken, constituted the unauthorized practice of law in the jurisdiction in which it was performed or in the jurisdiction in which the clients receiving the unauthorized services were located.

31.12(8) The following applicants shall not be eligible for admission on motion:

a. An applicant who has failed a bar examination administered in this state within five years of the date of filing of the application under this rule.

b. An applicant who has failed five or more bar examinations.

c. An applicant whose Iowa license is in exempt or inactive status under the provisions of rule 39.7 or rule 41.7.

d. An applicant who has been disbarred and not reinstated or whose license is currently suspended in any other jurisdiction.

[Court Order July 2, 1975; September 20, 1976; February 12, 1981; Note September 30, 1981; Court Order December 17, 1982; December 30, 1983; April 23, 1985; November 8, 1985; March 31, 1986, effective May 1, 1986; November 21, 1991, effective January 2, 1992; November 30, 1994, effective January 3, 1995; January 17, 1995, effective March 1, 1995; June 5, 1996, effective July 1, 1996; (Prior to July 1, 1996, Court Rule 114); May 2, 1997; October 11, 2001; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; February 22, 2002; April 20, 2005, effective July 1, 2005; August 6, 2007; February 14, 2008, effective April 1, 2008; October 15, 2008; August 10, 2009; January 19, 2010; July 13, 2012; December 10, 2012; August 21, 2013]

Rule 31.13 Proofs of qualifications; oath or affirmation.

31.13(1) *Required certificates, affidavit, and fingerprint card.* The following proofs must be filed with the office of professional regulation to qualify an applicant for admission under rule 31.12:

a. A certificate of admission in the applicant's state of licensure.

b. A certificate of a clerk or judge of a court of record, or of a judge advocate general or an administrative law judge, that the applicant was regularly engaged in the practice of law in said state for at least five of the last seven years immediately preceding the date of the application. If, due to the nature of the applicant's practice, the applicant cannot obtain a certificate from a clerk, judge, judge advocate general, or an administrative law judge, the applicant shall file a petition seeking leave to file an alternative certificate demonstrating good cause why the certificate cannot be obtained. If the supreme court grants the petition, the applicant shall file an affidavit detailing the nature, dates, and locations of the applicant's practice, along with an affidavit of a supervising attorney or another lawyer attesting to the applicant's practice over that period.

c. A certificate of an applicant's good moral character from a judge or clerk of the Iowa district court or of a court where the applicant has practiced within the last five years.

d. A completed fingerprint card.

31.13(2) *Oath or affirmation.*

a. An applicant whose application for admission without examination is granted must appear for admission before a supreme court justice unless the supreme court orders otherwise based upon a satisfactory showing of exceptional circumstances.

b. An applicant may file a petition seeking permission to be administered the lawyer's oath or affirmation in the jurisdiction in which the applicant is currently licensed or before a judge advocate general if the applicant is currently a member of one of the armed services of the United States. The petition must set forth in detail: the exceptional circumstances that render the applicant unable to appear for admission before a justice of the supreme court of Iowa; the name, title, business address, and telephone number of the justice, judge, clerk of court, court administrator, or the judge advocate general who will administer the lawyer's oath or affirmation; and the statute or court rule authorizing that person to administer an oath or affirmation.

c. If the supreme court grants the petition, the office of professional regulation shall forward all required documents to the applicant. The applicant will be deemed admitted to the Iowa bar on the date the completed documents are filed with the office of professional regulation.

d. The applicant must take the lawyer's oath or affirmation from an Iowa justice, or file the completed paperwork from an out-of-state oath or affirmation, within six months after the date the application for admission on motion is granted or the application will be deemed to be denied.

[Court Order July 2, 1975; December 30, 1982; December 30, 1983; April 23, 1985; November 8, 1985; January 17, 1995, effective March 1, 1995; June 5, 1996, effective July 1, 1996; (Prior to July 1, 1996, Court Rule 115); November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; May 31, 2006; October 31, 2006; February 14, 2008, effective April 1, 2008; October 15, 2008; January 19, 2010; December 10, 2012]

Rule 31.14 Admission pro hac vice before Iowa courts and administrative agencies.

31.14(1) *Definitions.*

a. An "out-of-state" lawyer is a person who:

(1) Is not admitted to practice law in this state but who is admitted in another state or territory of the United States or of the District of Columbia, or is licensed to practice as a foreign legal consultant in any state or territory of the United States or of the District of Columbia; and

(2) Is not disbarred or suspended from practice in any jurisdiction.

b. An out-of-state lawyer is "eligible" for admission pro hac vice if any of the following conditions are satisfied:

(1) The lawyer lawfully practices solely on behalf of the lawyer's employer and its commonly owned organizational affiliates, regardless of where such lawyer may reside or work.

(2) The lawyer neither resides nor is regularly employed at an office in this state.

(3) The lawyer resides in this state but (i) lawfully practices from offices in one or more other states and (ii) practices no more than temporarily in this state, whether pursuant to admission pro hac vice or in other lawful ways.

c. An "in-state" lawyer is a person admitted to practice law in this state and is not disbarred or suspended from practice in this state.

d. A "client" is a person or entity for whom the out-of-state lawyer has rendered services or by whom the lawyer has been retained prior to the lawyer's performance of services in this state.

e. "This state" refers to Iowa. This rule does not govern proceedings before a federal court or federal agency located in this state unless that body adopts or incorporates this rule.

31.14(2) *Authority of court or agency to permit appearance by out-of-state lawyer.*

a. Court proceeding. A court of this state may, in its discretion, admit an eligible out-of-state lawyer, who is retained to appear as attorney of record in a particular proceeding, only if the out-of-state lawyer appears with an in-state lawyer in that proceeding.

b. Administrative agency proceeding. If practice before an agency of this state is limited to lawyers, the agency may, using the same standards and procedures as a court, admit an eligible out-of-state lawyer who has been retained to appear in a particular agency proceeding as counsel in that proceeding pro hac vice, only if the out-of-state lawyer appears with an in-state lawyer in that proceeding.

c. Subsequent proceedings. Admission pro hac vice is limited to the particular court or agency proceeding for which admission was granted. An out-of-state lawyer must separately seek admission pro hac vice in any subsequent district or appellate court proceeding.

31.14(3) *In-state lawyer's duties.* When an out-of-state lawyer appears for a client in a proceeding pending in this state, either in the role of co-counsel of record with the in-state lawyer, or in an advisory or consultative role, the in-state lawyer who is co-counsel or counsel of record for that client in the proceeding remains responsible to the client and responsible for the conduct of the proceeding before the court or agency. It is the duty of the in-state lawyer to do all of the following:

a. Appear of record together with the out-of-state lawyer in the proceeding.

b. Actively participate in the proceeding. *See* Iowa R. of Prof'l Conduct 32:5.5(c)(1).

c. Accept service on behalf of the out-of-state lawyer as required by Iowa Code section 602.10111.

d. Advise the client of the in-state lawyer's independent judgment on contemplated actions in the proceeding if that judgment differs from that of the out-of-state lawyer.

31.14(4) *Application procedure.* An eligible out-of-state lawyer seeking to appear in a proceeding pending in this state as counsel pro hac vice shall file a verified application with the court or agency where the litigation is filed. The out-of-state lawyer shall serve the application on all parties who have appeared in the proceeding, and shall include proof of service. Application forms for admission pro hac vice can be found in rule 31.25.

31.14(5) *Required information for application.* An application filed by the out-of-state lawyer shall contain all of the following information:

a. The out-of-state lawyer's residence and business addresses.

b. The name, address, and phone number of each client sought to be represented.

c. The courts before which the out-of-state lawyer has been admitted to practice and the respective period of admission and any jurisdiction in which the out-of-state lawyer has been licensed to practice as a foreign legal consultant and the respective period of licensure.

d. Whether the out-of-state lawyer has been denied admission pro hac vice in this state. If so, specify the caption of the proceedings, the date of the denial, and what findings were made.

e. Whether the out-of-state lawyer has had admission pro hac vice revoked in this state. If so, specify the caption of the proceedings, the date of the revocation, and what findings were made.

f. Whether the out-of-state lawyer has been denied admission in any jurisdiction for reasons other than failure of a bar examination. If so, specify the jurisdiction, caption of the proceedings, the date of the denial, and what findings were made.

g. Whether the out-of-state lawyer has been formally disciplined or sanctioned by any court in this state. If so, specify the nature of the allegations, the name of the authority bringing such proceedings, the caption of the proceedings, the date filed, what findings were made, and what action was taken in connection with those proceedings.

h. Whether the out-of-state lawyer has been the subject of any injunction, cease-and-desist letter, or other action arising from a finding that the out-of-state lawyer engaged in the unauthorized practice of law in this state or elsewhere. If so, specify the nature of the allegations, the name of the authority bringing such proceedings, the caption of the proceedings, the date filed, what findings were made, and what action was taken in connection with those proceedings.

i. Whether any formal, written disciplinary proceeding has been brought against the out-of-state lawyer by a disciplinary authority or unauthorized practice of law commission in any other jurisdiction within the last five years, and as to each such proceeding: the nature of the allegations, the name of the person or authority bringing such proceedings, the date the proceedings were initiated and finally concluded, the style of the proceedings, and the findings made and actions taken in connection with those proceedings.

j. Whether the out-of-state lawyer has been placed on probation by a disciplinary authority in any other jurisdiction. If so, specify the jurisdiction, caption of the proceedings, the terms of the probation, and what findings were made.

k. Whether the out-of-state lawyer has been held formally in contempt or otherwise sanctioned by any court in a written order in the last five years for disobedience to its rules or orders, and, if so: the nature of the allegations, the name of the court before which such proceedings were conducted, the date of the contempt order or sanction, the caption of the proceedings, and the substance of the court's rulings. A copy of the written order or transcript of the oral rulings shall be attached to the application.

l. The name and address of each court or agency and a full identification of each proceeding in which the out-of-state lawyer has filed an application to appear pro hac vice in this state within the preceding two years, the date of each application, and the outcome of the application.

m. An averment as to the out-of-state lawyer's familiarity with the rules of professional conduct, the disciplinary procedures of this state, the standards for professional conduct, the applicable local rules, and the procedures of the court or agency before which the out-of-state lawyer seeks to practice.

n. The name, address, telephone number, and personal identification number of an in-state lawyer in good standing of the bar of this state who will sponsor the out-of-state lawyer's pro hac vice request.

o. An acknowledgement that service upon the in-state lawyer in all matters connected with the proceedings has the same effect as if personally made upon the out-of-state lawyer.

p. If the out-of-state lawyer has appeared pro hac vice in this state in five proceedings within the preceding two years, the application shall contain a statement showing good cause why the out-of-state attorney should be admitted in the present proceeding.

q. Any other information the out-of-state lawyer deems necessary to support the application for admission pro hac vice.

31.14(6) *Objection to application.* A party to the proceeding may file an objection to the application or seek the court's or agency's imposition of conditions to its being granted. The objecting party must file with its objection a verified affidavit containing or describing information establishing a factual basis for the objection. The objecting party may seek denial of the application or modification of it. If the application has already been granted, the objecting party may move that the pro hac vice admission be revoked.

31.14(7) *Standard for admission.* The courts and agencies of this state have discretion as to whether to grant applications for admission pro hac vice. If there is no opposition, the court or agency has the discretion to grant or deny the application summarily. An application ordinarily should be granted unless the court or agency finds one of the following:

a. The admission of the out-of-state attorney pro hac vice may be detrimental to the prompt, fair, and efficient administration of justice.

b. The admission of the out-of-state attorney pro hac vice may be detrimental to legitimate interests of parties to the proceedings other than a client the out-of-state lawyer proposes to represent.

c. One or more of the clients the out-of-state lawyer proposes to represent may be at risk of receiving inadequate representation and cannot adequately appreciate that risk.

d. The out-of-state lawyer has appeared pro hac vice in this state in five proceedings within the preceding two years, unless the out-of-state lawyer can show good cause exists for admission.

31.14(8) *Revocation of admission.* Admission to appear as counsel pro hac vice in a proceeding may be revoked for any of the reasons listed in rule 31.14(7).

31.14(9) *Discipline, contempt, and sanction authority over the out-of-state lawyer.*

a. During the pendency of an application for admission pro hac vice and upon the granting of such application, an out-of-state lawyer submits to the authority of the courts of this state, the agencies of this state, and the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board for all conduct relating in any way to the proceeding in which the out-of-state lawyer seeks to appear. The out-of-state lawyer submits to these authorities for all of the lawyer's conduct (i) within the state while the proceeding is pending or (ii) arising out of or relating to the application or the proceeding. An out-of-state lawyer who has pro hac vice authority for a proceeding may be disciplined in the same manner as an in-state lawyer. *See* Iowa R. Prof'l Conduct 32:8.5.

b. The authority to which an out-of-state lawyer submits includes, but is not limited to, the enforcement of the rules of professional conduct, the rules of procedure of the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board, contempt and sanction procedures, applicable local rules, and court, agency, and board policies and procedures.

c. An out-of-state lawyer who appears before a court of this state or before an agency of this state when practice is limited to lawyers and who does not obtain admission pro hac vice is engaged in the unauthorized practice of law. *See* Iowa R. Prof'l Conduct 32:5.5 cmt. 9. If an out-of-state lawyer reasonably expects to be admitted pro hac vice, the lawyer may provide legal services that are in or reasonably related to a pending or potential proceeding before a court or agency in this state. *See* Iowa R. Prof'l Conduct 32:5.5(c)(2).

31.14(10) *Familiarity with rules.* An out-of-state lawyer shall become familiar with the rules of professional conduct, the rules of procedure of the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board, the standards for professional conduct, local court or agency rules, and the policies and procedures of the court or agency before which the out-of-state lawyer seeks to practice.

[Court Order July 2, 1975; June 22, 1976; December 2, 1993; June 5, 1996, effective July 1, 1996; (Prior to July 1, 1996, Court Rule 116); April 1, 1999; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; April 20, 2005, effective July 1, 2005; September 27, 2006; March 15, 2007; June 3, 2009]

Rule 31.15 Permitted practice by law students and recent graduates.

31.15(1) Law students enrolled in a reputable law school as defined by rule 31.8 and Iowa Code section 602.10102 and certified to the office of professional regulation by the dean of the school to have completed satisfactorily not less than the equivalent of three semesters of the work required by the school to qualify for the J.D. or LL.B. degree, may, under the following conditions, engage in the practice of law or appear as counsel in the trial or appellate courts of this state.

a. Appearance by students as defense counsel in a criminal matter in any trial court shall be confined to misdemeanors, and the student shall be under the direct supervision of licensed Iowa counsel who shall be personally present.

b. Appearance by students in matters before the Iowa Supreme Court or the Iowa Court of Appeals shall be under the direct supervision of licensed Iowa counsel who shall be personally present.

c. Appearance or assistance by students in other matters shall be under the general supervision of licensed Iowa counsel, but such counsel need not be personally present in court unless required by order of the court.

31.15(2) Students who the dean of a reputable law school certifies have completed not less than the equivalent of two semesters of work required to qualify for the J.D. or LL.B. degree may appear in a representative capacity in a contested case proceeding before an administrative agency.

a. Appearance by students who have completed only two semesters of work shall be under the direct supervision of licensed Iowa counsel who shall be personally present.

b. Students who have completed at least three semesters may appear in a representative capacity in a contested case proceeding before an administrative agency under the general supervision of licensed Iowa counsel, but such counsel need not be personally present unless required by order of the tribunal.

31.15(3) Except as allowed by rule 31.15(4), students may not engage in the practice of law or appear as counsel in any court of this state or before an administrative agency unless such practice or appearance is part of an educational program approved by the faculty of the students' law school and not disapproved by the Iowa Supreme Court, and such program is supervised by at least one member of the law school's faculty. Students may continue to practice before courts or administrative agencies of this state after completion of an educational program so long as the placement is substantially the same as it was during the educational program, approved by the law school, and performed with the supervision required under rule 31.15(1) and 31.15(2).

31.15(4) Law students may assist licensed Iowa counsel to the same extent as a non-attorney without being part of an educational program or being certified to the office of professional regulation, but the students shall be under the general supervision of licensed Iowa counsel who need not be personally present. Law students may not appear in representative capacities in contested case proceedings before administrative agencies without complying with rule 31.15(2) and 31.15(3), or before trial or appellate courts without complying with rule 31.15(1).

31.15(5) Law students shall not receive compensation other than general compensation from an employer-attorney or from a law-school-administered fund.

31.15(6) Graduates of reputable law schools who have applied to take the Iowa bar examination are authorized to perform all activities described in this rule on behalf of the public defender's office, the attorney general's office, county attorney offices, or approved legal aid organizations under the following conditions:

a. Supervision of graduates shall be the same as supervision of law students under rule 31.15(1) and 31.15(2), but graduates do not need to meet the requirements of rule 31.15(3).

b. Graduates may perform under this rule beginning with the receipt of a law school dean's certification of graduation and terminating either upon the withdrawal or denial of their application to take the Iowa bar examination, their failure of the next administration of the Iowa bar examination, or upon the date of the admissions ceremony for those who pass that examination.

c. Graduates may practice up to 25 hours per week from receipt of a J.D. or LL.B. degree until the administration of the next Iowa bar examination.

d. Graduates are not limited in hours of practice under this rule from administration of the bar exam until the date the bar exam results are posted for those who fail or the date of the admissions ceremony for those who pass.

e. Graduates who have failed any state bar examination in the past are not eligible to practice under this provision.

f. The supervising organizations listed in rule 31.15(6) shall file a certificate with the Office of Professional Regulation of the Iowa Supreme Court (OPR) listing the starting dates for all graduates practicing under rule 31.15(6) and shall file a second certificate indicating when the practice under this rule has terminated.

31.15(7) Approved Legal Aid Organization. For purposes of this rule, an "approved legal aid organization" includes a program sponsored by a bar association, law school, or a not-for-profit legal aid organization, approved by the Iowa Supreme Court, whose primary purpose is to provide legal representation to low-income persons in Iowa.

a. A legal aid organization seeking approval from the court for the purposes of this rule shall file a petition with OPR certifying that it is a not-for-profit organization and reciting with specificity the following:

(1) The structure of the organization and whether it accepts funds from its clients.

(2) The major sources of funds the organization uses.

(3) The criteria used to determine potential clients' eligibility for legal services the organization performs.

(4) The types of legal and nonlegal services the organization performs.

(5) The names of all members of the Iowa bar who are employed by the organization or who regularly perform legal work for the organization.

(6) The existence and extent of malpractice insurance that will cover the law student or graduate.

b. An organization designated as an approved legal aid organization under the provisions of rule 31.19(2)(*c*) is an approved legal aid organization for purposes of this rule.

[Court Order April 4, 1967; May 15, 1972; January 14, 1974; April 8, 1975 [withdrawn]; April 9, 1975; April 8, 1980; April 28, 1987; June 5, 1996, effective July 1, 1996 (Prior to July 1, 1996, Court Rule 120); January 9, 1998, effective February 2, 1998; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; June 4, 2008, effective July 1, 2008; March 21, 2014]

Rule 31.16 Registration of house counsel.

31.16(1) *Who must register.* A lawyer who is not admitted to practice law in Iowa, but who is admitted to practice law in another United States jurisdiction, and who has a continuous presence in this jurisdiction and is employed as a lawyer by an organization as permitted pursuant to Rule 32:5.5(d)(1) of the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct, the business of which is lawful and consists of activities other than the practice of law or the provision of legal services, shall register as house counsel within 90 days of the commencement of employment as a lawyer or, if currently so employed, then within 90 days of the effective date of this rule. For purposes of rule 31.16, "United States jurisdiction" includes the District of Columbia and any state, territory, or commonwealth of the United States.

31.16(2) *Procedure for registering.* The lawyer shall submit to the Office of Professional Regulation of the Supreme Court of Iowa the following:

a. A completed application in the form the office of professional regulation prescribes.

b. A nonrefundable application fee in the amount of $500 payable to the Iowa board of law examiners.

c. A $200 client security assessment payable to the Client Security Commission.

d. Documents proving admission to practice law and current good standing in all jurisdictions in which the lawyer is admitted to practice law.

e. A certificate from the disciplinary authority of each jurisdiction of admission stating that the lawyer has not been suspended, disbarred, or disciplined and that no charges of professional misconduct are pending; or that identifies any suspensions, disbarments, or other disciplinary sanctions that have been imposed upon the lawyer, and any pending charges, complaints, or grievances.

f. An affidavit from an officer, director, or general counsel of the employing entity attesting as follows:

(1) The entity will be employing the lawyer;

(2) To the best of its knowledge the lawyer has been lawfully admitted to practice and is a lawyer in good standing in another United States jurisdiction;

(3) To the best of its knowledge the lawyer has not been disbarred or suspended from practice in any jurisdiction and has never been convicted of a felony;

(4) While serving as counsel, the lawyer will perform legal services solely for the corporation, association, or other business, educational, or governmental entity, including its subsidiaries and affiliates;

(5) While serving as counsel, the lawyer will not provide personal legal services to the entity's officers or employees, except regarding matters directly related to their work for the entity and only to the extent consistent with rule 32:1.7 of the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct;

(6) The corporation, association, or other business, educational, or governmental entity is not engaged in the practice of law or provision of legal services; and

(7) The entity will promptly notify the Client Security Commission of the termination of the lawyer's employment.

g. Any other document the supreme court requires to be submitted.

31.16(3) *Scope of authority of registered lawyer.*

a. A lawyer registered under this rule shall have the rights and privileges otherwise applicable to members of the bar of this state with the following restrictions:

(1) The registered lawyer is authorized to provide legal services to the entity client or its organizational affiliates, including entities that control, are controlled by, or are under common control with the employer, and for employees, officers, and directors of such entities, but only on matters directly related to their work for the entity and only to the extent consistent with rule 32:1.7 of the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct; and

(2) The registered lawyer shall not:

1. Except as otherwise permitted by the rules of this state, appear before a court or any other tribunal as defined in rule 32:1.0(m) of the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct. Registration under this rule does not authorize a lawyer to provide services to the employing entity for which pro hac vice admission is required. A lawyer registered under this rule must therefore comply with the requirements for pro hac vice admission under rule 31.14 for any appearances before a court or any administrative agency; or

2. Offer or provide legal services or advice to any person other than as described in rule 31.16(3)(*a*)(1), or hold himself or herself out as being authorized to practice law in this state other than as described in rule 31.16(3)(*a*)(1).

b. Notwithstanding the provisions of rule 31.16(3)(*a*), a lawyer registered under this rule is authorized to provide pro bono legal services through an established not-for-profit bar association, pro bono program or legal services program, or through such organization(s) specifically authorized in this state.

c. A lawyer registered under this rule shall:

(1) File an annual statement and pay the annual disciplinary fee as Iowa Court Rules 39.5 and 39.8 require;

(2) Commencing January 1, 2013, fulfill the continuing legal education attendance, reporting and fee payment requirements set forth in rules 41.3 and 41.4. However, a lawyer shall not be required to comply with the continuing legal education attendance requirements set forth in rule 41.3 for the calendar year in which the lawyer first registered as house counsel under this rule; and

(3) Report to the office of professional regulation within 90 days the following:

1. Termination of the lawyer's employment as described in rule 31.16(2)(*f*);

2. Whether or not public, any change in the lawyer's license status in another jurisdiction; and

3. Whether or not public, any disciplinary charge, finding, or sanction concerning the lawyer by any disciplinary authority, court, or other tribunal in any jurisdiction.

31.16(4) *Local discipline.* A registered lawyer under this section shall be subject to the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct and all other laws and rules governing lawyers admitted to the active practice of law in this state. The Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board has and shall retain jurisdiction over the registered lawyer with respect to the conduct of the lawyer in this state or another jurisdiction to the same extent as it has over lawyers generally admitted in this jurisdiction.

31.16(5) *Automatic termination.* A registered lawyer's rights and privileges under this section automatically terminate when:

a. The lawyer's employment terminates;

b. The lawyer is suspended or disbarred from practice in any jurisdiction or any court or agency before which the lawyer is admitted; or

c. The lawyer fails to maintain active status in at least one jurisdiction.

31.16(6) *Reinstatement.* A registered lawyer whose registration is terminated under rule 31.16(5)(*a*) above, may be reinstated within 180 days of termination upon submission to the office of professional regulation all of the following:

a. An application for reinstatement in a form the office of professional regulation prescribes;

b. A reinstatement fee in the amount of $100; and

c. An affidavit from the current employing entity as prescribed in rule 31.16(2)(*f*).

31.16(7) *Sanctions.* A lawyer under this rule who fails to register shall be:

a. Subject to professional discipline in this state;

b. Ineligible for admission on motion in this state;

c. Referred by the office of professional regulation to the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board; and

d. Referred by the office of professional regulation to the disciplinary authority of the jurisdictions of licensure.

31.16(8) *Court's discretion.* The supreme court shall have the discretion to grant or deny an application or to revoke a registration. The court may procure the character investigation services of the National Conference of Bar Examiners, at the lawyer's expense, in any matter in which substantial questions regarding the lawyer's character or fitness to practice law are implicated. The director of the office of professional regulation shall issue a certificate of registration upon the supreme court's approval of the application.

31.16(9) *Duration of registration—credit toward admission on motion.* A lawyer may practice law in Iowa under this registration provision for a period of up to five years. If the lawyer intends to

continue practicing law in Iowa, the lawyer must, prior to the expiration of the five-year period, apply for admission on motion. *See* Iowa Ct. R. 31.12. The filing of the application within the five-year period extends the registration period until the lawyer is admitted or the application is denied. The period of time the lawyer practices law in Iowa under the registration provisions of this rule may be used to satisfy the duration-of-practice requirement under rule 31.12(3)(*a*).

31.16(10) *Lawyers registered under prior version of this rule.* A lawyer registered under the prior version of this rule shall not be required to register again or pay the registration fee. The adoption of this rule shall not affect any existing five-year period for terminating registration as house counsel and applying for admission on motion. That date shall run from the date of the lawyer's registration as house counsel. All other provisions of this rule shall apply.

31.16(11) *Denial of application or suspension of registration for failure to comply with an obligation owed to or collected by the centralized collection unit of the Iowa Department of Revenue.* The supreme court may deny a lawyer's application for registration or suspend a lawyer's registration under this rule for failure to comply with an obligation owed to or collected by the centralized collection unit of the Iowa Department of Revenue. Rule 31.9(7) shall govern this procedure.

31.16(12) *Denial of application or suspension of registration for failure to comply with an obligation owed to or collected by the College Student Aid Commission.* The supreme court may deny a lawyer's application for registration or suspend a lawyer's registration under this rule for failure to comply with an obligation owed to or collected by the College Student Aid Commission. Rule 31.9(6) shall govern this procedure.

31.16(13) *Denial of application or suspension of registration for failure to comply with a support order.* The supreme court may deny a lawyer's application for registration or suspend a lawyer's registration under this rule for failure to comply with a support order. Rule 31.9(5) shall govern this procedure.

[Court Orders April 20, 2005, and July 1, 2005, effective July 1, 2005; September 1, 2005; June 16, 2006; February 14, 2008, effective April 1, 2008; June 5, 2008, effective July 1, 2008; September 12, 2012; August 21, 2013]

Rule 31.17 Provision of legal services following determination of major disaster.

31.17(1) *Determination of existence of major disaster.* Solely for purposes of this rule, this court shall determine when an emergency affecting the justice system, as a result of a natural or other major disaster, has occurred in:

a. This state and whether the emergency caused by the major disaster affects the entirety or only a part of the state, or

b. Another jurisdiction but only after such a determination and its geographical scope have been made by the highest court of that jurisdiction. The authority to engage in the temporary practice of law in this state pursuant to rule 31.17(3) shall extend only to lawyers who principally practice in the area of such other jurisdiction determined to have suffered a major disaster causing an emergency affecting the justice system and the provision of legal services.

31.17(2) *Temporary practice—pro bono services.* Following the determination of an emergency affecting the justice system in this state pursuant to rule 31.17(1), or a determination that persons displaced by a major disaster in another jurisdiction and residing in this state are in need of pro bono services and the assistance of lawyers from outside of this state is required to help provide such assistance, a lawyer authorized to practice law in another United States jurisdiction, and not disbarred, suspended from practice or otherwise restricted from practice in any jurisdiction, may provide legal services in this state on a temporary basis. Such legal services must be provided on a pro bono basis without compensation, expectation of compensation or other direct or indirect pecuniary gain to the lawyer. Such legal services shall be assigned and supervised through an established not-for-profit bar association, pro bono program or legal services program or through such organization(s) specifically designated by this court.

31.17(3) *Temporary practice—legal services arising out of and reasonably related to a lawyer's practice of law in another jurisdiction, or area of such other jurisdiction, where the disaster occurred.* Following the determination of a major disaster in another United States jurisdiction, a lawyer who is authorized to practice law and who principally practices in that affected jurisdiction, and who is not disbarred, suspended from practice or otherwise restricted from practice in any jurisdiction, may provide legal services in this state on a temporary basis. Those legal services must

arise out of and be reasonably related to that lawyer's practice of law in the jurisdiction, or area of such other jurisdiction, where the major disaster occurred.

31.17(4) *Duration of authority for temporary practice.* The authority to practice law in this state granted by rule 31.17(2) shall end when this court determines that the conditions caused by the major disaster have ended except that a lawyer then representing clients in this state pursuant to rule 31.17(2) is authorized to continue the provision of legal services for such time as is reasonably necessary to complete the representation, but the lawyer shall not thereafter accept new clients. The authority to practice law in this state granted by rule 31.17(3) shall end 60 days after this court declares that the conditions caused by the major disaster in the affected jurisdiction have ended.

31.17(5) *Court appearances.* The authority granted by this rule does not include appearances in court except:

a. Pursuant to this court's pro hac vice admission rule; or

b. If this court, in any determination made under rule 31.17(1), grants blanket permission to appear in all or designated courts of this state to lawyers providing legal services pursuant to rule 31.17(2).

31.17(6) *Disciplinary authority and registration requirement.* Lawyers providing legal services in this state pursuant to rule 31.17(2) or (3) are subject to this court's disciplinary authority and the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct as provided in Iowa R. of Prof'l Conduct 8.5. Lawyers providing legal services in this state under rule 31.17(2) or (3) shall, within 30 days from the commencement of the provision of legal services, file a registration statement with the office of professional regulation. A form for the registration statement can be found in rule 31.25. Any lawyer who provides legal services pursuant to this rule shall not be considered to be engaged in the unlawful practice of law in this state.

31.17(7) *Notification to clients.* Lawyers authorized to practice law in another United States jurisdiction who provide legal services pursuant to this rule shall inform clients in this state of the jurisdiction in which they are authorized to practice law, any limits of that authorization, and that they are not authorized to practice law in this state except as permitted by this rule. They shall not state or imply to any person that they are otherwise authorized to practice law in this state.

The comment accompanying this rule explains and illustrates the meaning and purpose of the rule. The comment is intended as a guide to interpretation, but the text of the rule is authoritative.

COMMENT

[1] A major disaster in this state or another jurisdiction may cause an emergency affecting the justice system with respect to the provision of legal services for a sustained period of time interfering with the ability of lawyers admitted and practicing in the affected jurisdiction to continue to represent clients until the disaster has ended. When this happens, lawyers from the affected jurisdiction may need to provide legal services to their clients, on a temporary basis, from an office outside their home jurisdiction. In addition, lawyers in an unaffected jurisdiction may be willing to serve residents of the affected jurisdiction who have unmet legal needs as a result of the disaster or, though independent of the disaster, whose legal needs temporarily are unmet because of disruption to the practices of local lawyers. Lawyers from unaffected jurisdictions may offer to provide these legal services either by traveling to the affected jurisdiction or from their own offices or both, provided the legal services are provided on a pro bono basis through an authorized not-for-profit entity or such other organization(s) specifically designated by this court. A major disaster includes, for example, a hurricane, earthquake, flood, wildfire, tornado, public health emergency or an event caused by terrorists or acts of war.

[2] Under rule 31.17(1)(*a*), this court shall determine whether a major disaster causing an emergency affecting the justice system has occurred in this state, or in a part of this state, for purposes of triggering rule 31.17(2). This court may, for example, determine that the entirety of this state has suffered a disruption in the provision of legal services or that only certain areas have suffered such an event. The authority granted by rule 31.17(2) shall extend only to lawyers authorized to practice law and not disbarred, suspended from practice or otherwise restricted from practice in any other manner in any other jurisdiction.

[3] Rule 31.17(2) permits lawyers authorized to practice law in another jurisdiction, and not disbarred, suspended from practice or otherwise restricted from practicing law in any other manner in any other jurisdiction, to provide pro bono legal services to residents of this state following a determination of an emergency caused by a major disaster; notwithstanding that they are not otherwise authorized to practice law in this state. Other restrictions on a lawyer's license to practice law that would prohibit that lawyer from providing legal services pursuant to this rule include, but are not limited to, probation, inactive status, disability inactive status or a non-disciplinary administrative suspension for failure to complete continuing legal education or other requirements. Lawyers on probation may be subject to monitoring and specific limitations on their practices. Lawyers on inactive status, despite being characterized in many jurisdictions as being "in good standing," and lawyers on disability inactive status are not permitted to practice law. Public protection warrants exclusion of these lawyers from the authority to provide legal services as defined in this rule. Lawyers permitted to provide legal services pursuant to this rule must do so without fee or other compensation, or expectation thereof. Their service must be provided through an established not-for-profit organization that is authorized to provide legal services either in its own name or that provides representation of clients through employed or cooperating lawyers. Alternatively, this court may instead designate other specific organization(s) through which these legal services may be rendered. Under rule 31.17(2), an emeritus lawyer from another United States jurisdiction may provide pro bono legal services on a temporary basis in this state provided that the emeritus lawyer is authorized to provide pro bono legal services in that jurisdiction pursuant to that jurisdiction's emeritus or pro bono practice rule. Lawyers may also be authorized to provide legal services in this state on a temporary basis under Iowa R. of Prof'l Conduct 32:5.5(c).

[4] Lawyers authorized to practice law in another jurisdiction, who principally practice in the area of such other jurisdiction determined by this court to have suffered a major disaster, and whose practices are disrupted by a major disaster there, and who are not disbarred, suspended from practice or otherwise restricted from practicing law in any other manner in any other

jurisdiction, are authorized under rule 31.17(3) to provide legal services on a temporary basis in this state. Those legal services must arise out of and be reasonably related to the lawyer's practice of law in the affected jurisdiction. For purposes of this rule, the determination of a major disaster in another jurisdiction should first be made by the highest court of appellate jurisdiction in that jurisdiction. For the meaning of "arise out of and reasonably related to," see Iowa R. of Prof'l Conduct 32:5.5, cmt. [14].

[5] Emergency conditions created by major disasters end, and when they do, the authority created by rules 31.17(2) and (3) also ends with appropriate notice to enable lawyers to plan and to complete pending legal matters. Under rule 31.17(4), this court determines when those conditions end only for purposes of this rule. The authority granted under rule 31.17(2) shall end upon such determination except that lawyers assisting residents of this state under rule 31.17(2) may continue to do so for such longer period as is reasonably necessary to complete the representation. The authority created by rule 31.17(3) will end 60 days after this court makes such a determination with regard to an affected jurisdiction.

[6] Rules 31.17(2) and (3) do not authorize lawyers to appear in the courts of this state. Court appearances are subject to the pro hac vice admission rules of this court. This court may, in a determination made under rule 31.17(5)(*b*), include authorization for lawyers who provide legal services in this state under rule 31.17(2) to appear in all or designated courts of this state without need for such pro hac vice admission. A lawyer who has appeared in the courts of this state pursuant to rule 31.17(5) may continue to appear in any such matter notwithstanding a declaration under rule 31.17(4) that the conditions created by major disaster have ended. Furthermore, withdrawal from a court appearance is subject to Iowa R. of Prof'l Conduct 32:1.16.

[7] Authorization to practice law as a foreign legal consultant or in-house counsel in a United States jurisdiction offers lawyers a limited scope of permitted practice and may therefore restrict that person's ability to provide legal services under this rule.

[8] The ABA National Lawyer Regulatory Data Bank is available to help determine whether any lawyer seeking to practice in this state pursuant to rule 31.17(2) or (3) is disbarred, suspended from practice or otherwise subject to a public disciplinary sanction that would restrict the lawyer's ability to practice law in any other jurisdiction.

[Court Order May 14, 2007; February 14, 2008, effective April 1, 2008]

Rule 31.18 Licensing and practice of foreign legal consultants.

31.18(1) *General regulation as to licensing.* In its discretion, the supreme court may license to practice in the State of Iowa as a foreign legal consultant, without examination, an applicant who:

a. Is, and for at least five years has been, a member in good standing of a recognized legal profession in a foreign country, the members of which are admitted to practice as lawyers or counselors at law or the equivalent and are subject to effective regulation and discipline by a duly constituted professional body or a public authority;

b. For at least five years preceding his or her application has been a member in good standing of such legal profession and has been lawfully engaged in the practice of law in the foreign country or elsewhere substantially involving or relating to the rendering of advice or the provision of legal services concerning the law of the foreign country;

c. Possesses the good moral character and general fitness requisite for a member of the bar of this state; and

d. Intends to practice as a foreign legal consultant in this state and to maintain an office in this state for that purpose.

31.18(2) *Application and fee.*

a. The applicant shall file an application for a foreign legal consultant license with the National Conference of Bar Examiners through their online character and fitness application process at http://www.ncbex.org/ea, unless an exception is granted by the Office of Professional Regulation. The applicant shall pay the investigative fee required by the National Conference of Bar Examiners at the time of filing the application.

b. In addition, the applicant shall file the following documents and fee with the Office of Professional Regulation:

(1) A certificate from the professional body or public authority having final jurisdiction over professional discipline in the foreign country in which the applicant is admitted, certifying the applicant's admission to practice, date of admission, and good standing as a lawyer or counselor at law or the equivalent, and certifying that the applicant has not been disciplined and no charges of professional misconduct are pending, or identifying any disciplinary sanctions that have been imposed upon the applicant or any pending charges, complaints, or grievances;

(2) A letter of recommendation from one of the members of the executive body of such professional body or public authority or from one of the judges of the highest law court or court of original jurisdiction in the foreign country in which the applicant is admitted;

(3) Duly authenticated English translations of the certificate required by rule 31.18(2)(*b*)(1) and the letter required by rule 31.18(2)(*b*)(2) if they are not in English;

(4) The requisite documentation establishing the applicant's compliance with the immigration laws of the United States;

(5) Other evidence as the supreme court may require regarding the applicant's educational and professional qualifications, good moral character and general fitness, and compliance with the requirements of rule 31.18(1); and

(6) An administrative fee of $500 payable to the Office of Professional Regulation at the time the application is filed.

31.18(3) *Scope of practice.* A person licensed to practice as a foreign legal consultant under this rule may render legal services in this state, but shall not be considered admitted to practice law here, or in any way hold himself or herself out as a member of the bar of this state, or do any of the following:

a. Appear as a lawyer on behalf of another person in any court, or before any magistrate or other judicial officer, in this state (except when admitted pro hac vice pursuant to Iowa Ct. R. 31.14);

b. Prepare any instrument effecting the transfer or registration of title to real estate located in the United States of America;

c. Prepare:

(1) Any will or trust instrument effecting the disposition on death of any property located in the United States of America and owned by a resident thereof, or

(2) Any instrument relating to the administration of a decedent's estate in the United States of America;

d. Prepare any instrument in respect of the marital or parental relations, rights, or duties of a resident of the United States of America, or the custody or care of the children of such a resident;

e. Render professional legal advice on the law of this state or of the United States of America (whether rendered incident to the preparation of legal instruments or otherwise);

f. Carry on a practice under, or utilize in connection with such practice, any name, title, or designation other than one or more of the following:

(1) The foreign legal consultant's own name;

(2) The name of the law firm with which the foreign legal consultant is affiliated;

(3) The foreign legal consultant's authorized title in the foreign country of his or her admission to practice, which may be used in conjunction with the name of that country; and

(4) The title "foreign legal consultant," which may be used in conjunction with the words "admitted to the practice of law in [name of the foreign country of his or her admission to practice]."

31.18(4) *Rights and obligations.* Subject to the limitations listed in rule 31.18(3), a person licensed under this rule shall be considered a foreign legal consultant affiliated with the bar of this state and shall be entitled and subject to:

a. The rights and obligations set forth in the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct or arising from the other conditions and requirements that apply to a member of the bar of this state under the Iowa Court Rules; and

b. The rights and obligations of a member of the bar of this state with respect to:

(1) Affiliation in the same law firm with one or more members of the bar of this state, including by:

1. Employing one or more members of the bar of this state;

2. Being employed by one or more members of the bar of this state or by any partnership [or professional corporation] that includes members of the bar of this state or that maintains an office in this state; and

3. Being a partner in any partnership [or shareholder in any professional corporation] that includes members of the bar of this state or that maintains an office in this state; and

(2) Attorney-client privilege, work-product privilege, and similar professional privileges.

31.18(5) *Discipline.* A person licensed to practice as a foreign legal consultant under this rule shall be subject to professional discipline in the same manner and to the same extent as members of the bar of this state. To this end:

a. Every person licensed to practice as a foreign legal consultant under this rule:

(1) Shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the supreme court and the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board and to reprimand, suspension, removal, or revocation of his or her license to practice by the supreme court and shall otherwise be governed by the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct and the Iowa Court Rules; and

(2) Shall execute and file with the clerk of the supreme court, in the form and manner as the court may prescribe:

1. A commitment to observe the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct and the Iowa Court Rules to the extent applicable to the legal services authorized under rule 31.18(3);

2. A written undertaking to notify the court of any change in the foreign legal consultant's good standing as a member of the foreign legal profession referred to in rule 31.18(1)(*a*) and of any final action of the professional body or public authority referred to in rule 31.18(2)(*b*)(1) imposing any disciplinary reprimand, suspension, or other sanction upon the foreign legal consultant; and

3. A duly acknowledged instrument in writing, providing the foreign legal consultant's address in this state and designating the clerk of the supreme court as his or her agent for service of process. The foreign legal consultant shall keep the Office of Professional Regulation advised in writing of any changes of address in this jurisdiction. In any action or proceeding brought against the foreign legal consultant and arising out of or based upon any legal services rendered or offered to be rendered by the foreign legal consultant within this state or to residents of this state, service shall first be attempted upon the foreign legal consultant at the most recent address filed with the clerk. Whenever after due diligence service cannot be made upon the foreign legal consultant at that address, service may be made upon the clerk. Service made upon the clerk in accordance with this provision is effective as if service had been made personally upon the foreign legal consultant.

b. Service of process on the clerk under rule 31.18(5)(*a*)(2)"3" shall be made by personally delivering to the clerk's office, and leaving with the clerk, or with a deputy or assistant authorized by the clerk to receive service, duplicate copies of the process. The clerk shall promptly send one copy of the process to the foreign legal consultant to whom the process is directed, by certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the foreign legal consultant at the most recent address provided in accordance with rule 31.18(5)(*a*)(2)"3."

31.18(6) *Required fees and annual statements.* A person licensed as a foreign legal consultant shall pay a $200 registration fee to the Client Security Commission. The person licensed under this rule shall file an annual statement and pay the annual disciplinary fee as required by Iowa Ct. Rs. 39.5 and 39.8.

31.18(7) *Revocation of license.* If the supreme court determines that a person licensed as a foreign legal consultant under this rule no longer meets the requirements for licensure set forth in rule 31.18(1)(*a*) or (*b*), it shall revoke the foreign legal consultant's license.

31.18(8) *Admission to bar.* If a person licensed as a foreign legal consultant under this rule is subsequently admitted as a member of the bar of this state under the rules governing admission, that person's foreign legal consultant license shall be deemed superseded by the license to practice law as a member of the bar of this state.

[Court Order June 3, 2009; January 19, 2010; August 21, 2013]

Rule 31.19 Certification and pro bono participation of emeritus attorneys.

31.19(1) *Purpose.* The following rule establishes the emeritus attorneys pro bono participation program.

31.19(2) *Definitions.*

a. Emeritus attorney. An "emeritus attorney" is any person who is admitted to practice law in Iowa and is on inactive, active, or retired status at the time of application, or who is or was admitted to practice law before the highest court of any other state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia, and:

(1) Does not have a pending disciplinary proceeding;

(2) Has never been disbarred or had a license to practice law revoked in any jurisdiction;

(3) Agrees to abide by the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct and submit to the jurisdiction of the Iowa Supreme Court, the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board, and the Iowa Supreme Court Grievance Commission for disciplinary purposes;

(4) Neither requests nor accepts compensation of any kind for the legal services to be rendered under this chapter; and

(5) Is certified under this rule.

b. Active. For purposes of this rule, "active" describes lawyers with the status of corporate, full-time, part-time, government, judge, or military service for purposes of the Client Security Commission.

c. Approved legal aid organization. For purposes of this rule, an "approved legal aid organization" shall include a program sponsored by a bar association, law school, or a not-for-profit legal aid organization, approved by the Iowa Supreme Court, whose primary purpose is to provide legal representation to low-income persons in Iowa. A legal aid organization seeking approval from the court for the purposes of this rule shall file a petition with the Office of Professional Regulation certifying that it is a not-for-profit organization and reciting with specificity:

(1) The structure of the organization and whether it accepts funds from its clients;

(2) The major sources of funds the organization uses;

(3) The criteria used to determine potential clients' eligibility for legal services the organization performs;

(4) The types of legal and nonlegal services the organization performs;

(5) The names of all members of the Iowa bar the organization employs or who regularly perform legal work for the organization;

(6) The existence and extent of malpractice insurance that will cover the emeritus attorney;

(7) The number of attorneys on the organization's board of directors; and

(8) The availability of in-house continuing legal education.

31.19(3) *Activities.*

a. Permissible activities. An emeritus attorney, in association with an approved legal aid organization, may perform the following activities:

(1) The emeritus attorney may appear in any court or before any administrative tribunal in this state on behalf of a client of an approved legal aid organization.

(2) The emeritus attorney may prepare pleadings and other documents to be filed in any court or before any administrative tribunal in this state in any matter in which the emeritus attorney is involved. Such pleadings shall include the attorney's status as emeritus attorney and the name of the approved legal aid organization, except as permitted by Iowa Rule of Civil Procedure 1.423.

(3) The emeritus attorney may provide advice, screening, transactional, and other activities for clients of approved legal aid organizations.

b. Determination of nature of participation. The presiding judge or hearing officer may, in the judge's or officer's discretion, determine the extent of the emeritus attorney's participation in any proceedings before the court.

31.19(4) *Supervision and limitations.*

a. Supervision by attorney. An emeritus attorney must perform all activities authorized by this chapter under the general supervision of the approved legal aid organization.

b. Representation of status. Attorneys permitted to perform services under this chapter may only hold themselves out as emeritus attorneys.

c. Payment of expenses and award of fees. The prohibition against compensation for the emeritus attorney contained in rule 31.19(2)(*a*)(4) shall not prevent the approved legal aid organization from reimbursing the emeritus attorney for actual expenses incurred while rendering services under this chapter or from paying continuing legal education attendance fees on behalf of the emeritus attorneys, nor shall it prevent the approved legal aid organization from making such charges for its services as it may otherwise properly charge. The approved legal aid organization shall be entitled to receive all court-awarded attorneys' fees for any representation rendered by the emeritus attorney.

31.19(5) *Certification.* Permission for an emeritus attorney to perform services under this chapter shall become effective upon filing with and approval by the Office of Professional Regulation of:

a. A certification from an approved legal aid organization stating that the emeritus attorney is currently associated with that legal aid organization and that all activities of the emeritus attorney will be under the general supervision of the legal aid organization;

b. A certificate from the highest court or agency in the state, territory, or district in which the emeritus attorney previously has been licensed to practice law, certifying that the emeritus attorney is in good standing, does not have a pending disciplinary proceeding, and has never been disbarred or had the license to practice law revoked; and

c. A sworn statement from the emeritus attorney that the emeritus attorney:

(1) Relinquishes status as an inactive, active, or retired lawyer and requests placement in emeritus status for purposes of the Client Security Commission and Commission on Continuing Legal Education;

(2) Understands and will abide by the provisions of the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct;

(3) Submits to the jurisdiction of the Iowa Supreme Court, the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board, and the Iowa Supreme Court Grievance Commission for disciplinary purposes; and

(4) Will neither request nor accept compensation of any kind for the legal services authorized under this chapter.

31.19(6) *Withdrawal of certification.*

a. Withdrawal of permission to perform services. Permission to perform services under this chapter shall cease immediately upon the filing with the office of professional regulation of a notice either:

(1) From the approved legal aid organization stating that the emeritus attorney has ceased to be associated with the organization, which notice must be filed within 30 days after such association has ceased; or

(2) From the Iowa Supreme Court, in its discretion, at any time, stating that permission to perform services under this chapter has been revoked. A copy of such notice shall be mailed by the office of professional regulation to the emeritus attorney involved and to the approved legal aid organization.

b. Notice of withdrawal. If an emeritus attorney's certification is withdrawn for any reason, the approved legal aid organization shall immediately file a notice of such action in the official file of each matter pending before any court or tribunal in which the emeritus attorney was involved.

31.19(7) *Discipline.* In addition to any appropriate proceedings and discipline that may be imposed upon the emeritus attorney by the Iowa Supreme Court under the court's disciplinary rules, the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct, or the Code of Iowa, the Iowa Supreme Court may, at any time, with or without cause, withdraw certification under this rule.

31.19(8) *Fees and annual statements.*

a. Annual report to Client Security Commission. A lawyer certified under this rule shall file the annual questionnaire required by Iowa Ct. R. 39.11 and the annual statement required by Iowa Ct. R. 39.8(1), but shall be exempt from the annual disciplinary fee and fund assessment provided in Iowa Ct. Rs. 39.5 and 39.6.

b. Annual Report to Commission on Continuing Legal Education. A lawyer certified under this rule shall fulfill the continuing legal education attendance, reporting, and fee payment requirements set forth in Iowa Ct. Rs. 41.3 and 41.4. However, a lawyer shall not be required to comply with the continuing legal education requirements set forth in Iowa Ct. R. 41.3 for the calendar year in which the lawyer is first certified under this rule. The approved legal aid organization may pay the continuing legal education reporting fee on behalf of the emeritus attorney.

[Court Order March 1, 2013]

Rules 31.20 to **31.24** Reserved.

Rule 31.25 Forms.

Rule 31.25 — Form 1: ***Application for Admission Pro Hac Vice — District Court.***

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT OF _____ COUNTY

_____, Plaintiff(s), vs. _____, Defendant(s).	Case No. _____ **APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION PRO HAC VICE** **(Iowa Court Rule 31.14)**

The undersigned seeks permission to appear pro hac vice in the above-captioned proceeding.

Applicant shall complete all of the following:

If this matter involves review of an agency action did the applicant seek admission pro hac vice in the proceedings below?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, attach copies of all related documents.

a. Applicant's full name, residential address, and business address.

_____

_____

b. The name, address, and phone number of each client sought to be represented.

_____

_____

c. The courts before which the applicant has been admitted to practice and the respective periods of admission and any jurisdiction in which the out-of-state lawyer has been licensed to practice as a foreign legal consultant and the respective period of licensure.

_____

_____

_____

d. Has the applicant ever been denied admission pro hac vice in this state?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, on a separate page specify the caption of the proceedings, the date of the denial, and what findings were made. Attach copies of all related documents.

e. Has the applicant ever had admission pro hac vice revoked in this state?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, on a separate page specify the caption of the proceedings, the date of the revocation, and what findings were made. Attach copies of all related documents.

f. Has the applicant ever been denied admission in any jurisdiction for reasons other than failure of a bar examination?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, on a separate page specify the jurisdiction, caption of the proceedings, the date of the denial, and what findings were made. Attach copies of all related documents.

g. Has the applicant ever been formally disciplined or sanctioned by any court in this state?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, on a separate page specify the nature of the allegations, the name of the authority bringing such proceedings, the caption of the proceedings, the date filed, what findings were made, and what action was taken in connection with those proceedings. Attach copies of all related documents.

h. Has the applicant ever been the subject of any injunction, cease-and-desist letter, or other action arising from a finding that the applicant engaged in the unauthorized practice of law in this state or elsewhere?
Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, on a separate page specify the nature of the allegations, the name of the authority bringing such proceedings, the caption of the proceedings, the date filed, what findings were made, and what action was taken in connection with those proceedings. Attach copies of all related documents.

i. Has any formal, written disciplinary proceeding ever been brought against the applicant by a disciplinary authority or unauthorized practice of law commission in any other jurisdiction within the last five years?
Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, on a separate page specify as to each such proceeding: the nature of the allegations, the name of the person or authority bringing such proceedings, the date the proceedings were initiated and finally concluded, the style of the proceedings, and the findings made and actions taken in connection with those proceedings. Attach copies of all related documents.

j. Has the applicant ever been placed on probation by a disciplinary authority in any other jurisdiction?
Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, on a separate page specify the jurisdiction, caption of the proceedings, the terms of the probation, and what findings were made. Attach copies of all related documents.

k. Has the applicant ever been held formally in contempt or otherwise sanctioned by any court in a written order in the last five years for disobedience to its rules or orders?
Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, on a separate page specify the nature of the allegations, the name of the court before which such proceedings were conducted, the date of the contempt order or sanction, the caption of the proceedings, and the substance of the court's rulings. Attach to this application a copy of the written order or a transcript of the oral rulings and other related documents.

l. Has the applicant filed an application to appear pro hac vice in this state within the preceding two years?
Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, on a separate page list the name and address of each court or agency and a full identification of each proceeding in which an application was filed, including the date and outcome of the application. Attach copies of all related documents.

m. I acknowledge my familiarity with the rules of professional conduct, the disciplinary procedures of this state, the standards for professional conduct, the applicable local rules, and the procedures of the court before which I seek to practice.
Yes ☐ No ☐

n. List the name, address, telephone number, and personal identification number of an in-state lawyer in good standing of the bar of this state who will sponsor the applicant's pro hac vice request.

_____

_____

o. I acknowledge that service upon the in-state lawyer in all matters connected with the proceedings will have the same effect as if personally made upon me.
Yes ☐ No ☐

p. If the applicant has appeared pro hac vice in this state in five proceedings within the preceding two years, the applicant shall, on a separate page, provide a statement showing good cause why the applicant should be admitted in the present proceeding.

q. On a separate page the applicant shall provide any other information the applicant deems necessary to support the application for admission pro hac vice.

I certify under penalty of perjury and pursuant to the laws of the state of Iowa that the preceding is true and correct.

_____ _____
Date Signature of applicant

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies a copy of this application was served on the following parties (list names and addresses below) on the _____ day of _____ 20 _____ by _____ personal delivery _____ deposit in the U.S. mail.

_____
Signature of person making service

[Court Order March 15, 2007; June 3, 2009]

Rule 31.25 — Form 2: ***Application for Admission Pro Hac Vice — Supreme Court.***

IN THE IOWA SUPREME COURT

_____, Plaintiff(s), vs. _____, Defendant(s).	Case No. _____ **APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION PRO HAC VICE** **(Iowa Court Rule 31.14)**

The undersigned seeks permission to appear pro hac vice in the above-captioned proceeding.

Applicant shall complete all of the following:

Did the applicant seek admission pro hac vice in the proceedings below?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, attach copies of all related documents.

a. Applicant's full name, residential address, and business address.

_____

_____

b. The name, address, and phone number of each client sought to be represented.

_____

_____

c. The courts before which the applicant has been admitted to practice and the respective periods of admission and any jurisdiction in which the out-of-state lawyer has been licensed to practice as a foreign legal consultant and the respective period of licensure.

_____

_____

_____

d. Has the applicant ever been denied admission pro hac vice in this state?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, on a separate page specify the caption of the proceedings, the date of the denial, and what findings were made. Attach copies of all related documents.

e. Has the applicant ever had admission pro hac vice revoked in this state?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, on a separate page specify the caption of the proceedings, the date of the revocation, and what findings were made. Attach copies of all related documents.

f. Has the applicant ever been denied admission in any jurisdiction for reasons other than failure of a bar examination?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, on a separate page specify the jurisdiction, caption of the proceedings, the date of the denial, and what findings were made. Attach copies of all related documents.

g. Has the applicant ever been formally disciplined or sanctioned by any court in this state?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, on a separate page specify the nature of the allegations, the name of the authority bringing such proceedings, the caption of the proceedings, the date filed, what findings were made, and what action was taken in connection with those proceedings. Attach copies of all related documents.

h. Has the applicant ever been the subject of any injunction, cease-and-desist letter, or other action arising from a finding that the applicant engaged in the unauthorized practice of law in this state or elsewhere?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, on a separate page specify the nature of the allegations, the name of the authority bringing such proceedings, the caption of the proceedings, the date filed, what findings were made, and what action was taken in connection with those proceedings. Attach copies of all related documents.

i. Has any formal, written disciplinary proceeding ever been brought against the applicant by a disciplinary authority or unauthorized practice of law commission in any other jurisdiction within the last five years?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, on a separate page specify as to each such proceeding: the nature of the allegations, the name of the person or authority bringing such proceedings, the date the proceedings were initiated and finally concluded, the style of the proceedings, and the findings made and actions taken in connection with those proceedings. Attach copies of all related documents.

j. Has the applicant ever been placed on probation by a disciplinary authority in any other jurisdiction?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, on a separate page specify the jurisdiction, caption of the proceedings, the terms of the probation, and what findings were made. Attach copies of all related documents.

k. Has the applicant ever been held formally in contempt or otherwise sanctioned by any court in a written order in the last five years for disobedience to its rules or orders?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, on a separate page specify the nature of the allegations, the name of the court before which such proceedings were conducted, the date of the contempt order or sanction, the caption of the proceedings, and the substance of the court's rulings. Attach to this application a copy of the written order or a transcript of the oral rulings and other related documents.

l. Has the applicant filed an application to appear pro hac vice in this state within the preceding two years?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, on a separate page list the name and address of each court or agency and a full identification of each proceeding in which an application was filed, including the date and outcome of the application. Attach copies of all related documents.

m. I acknowledge my familiarity with the rules of professional conduct, the disciplinary procedures of this state, the standards for professional conduct, the applicable local rules, and the procedures of the court before which I seek to practice.

Yes ☐ No ☐

n. List the name, address, telephone number, and personal identification number of an in-state lawyer in good standing of the bar of this state who will sponsor the applicant's pro hac vice request.

_____

_____

o. I acknowledge that service upon the in-state lawyer in all matters connected with the proceedings will have the same effect as if personally made upon me.

Yes ☐ No ☐

p. If the applicant has appeared pro hac vice in this state in five proceedings within the preceding two years, the applicant shall, on a separate page, provide a statement showing good cause why the applicant should be admitted in the present proceeding.

q. On a separate page the applicant shall provide any other information the applicant deems necessary to support the application for admission pro hac vice.

I certify under penalty of perjury and pursuant to the laws of the state of Iowa that the preceding is true and correct.

_____ _____

Date Signature of applicant

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies a copy of this application was served on the following parties (list names and addresses below) on the _____ day of _____ 20 _____ by _____ personal delivery _____ deposit in the U.S. mail.

_____

Signature of person making service

[Court Order March 15, 2007; June 3, 2009]

Rule 31.25 — Form 3: ***Registration statement for lawyer engaging in temporary practice following determination of major disaster.***

IN THE IOWA SUPREME COURT

REGISTRATION STATEMENT FOR LAWYER ENGAGING IN TEMPORARY PRACTICE FOLLOWING DETERMINATION OF MAJOR DISASTER	IOWA COURT RULE 31.17

Pursuant to Iowa Court Rule 31.17(6) the undersigned shall complete the following:

1. Name

Lawyer's full name.

_____

Name of lawyer's firm.

_____

2. Home State Information

Residential address in lawyer's home state.

_____

_____

Business address in lawyer's home state.

_____

_____

Telephone number(s) in lawyer's home state.

_____

_____

E-mail address.

_____

_____

3. Iowa Information

Residential address in Iowa.

_____

_____

Business address in Iowa.

_____

_____

Telephone number(s) in Iowa.

_____

_____

E-mail address.

_____

4. Bar Admission

List the courts before which you have been admitted to practice, the respective periods of admission, and your registration or bar numbers.

_____

_____

_____

Is your license to practice currently subject to disbarment, suspension, or restrictions in any jurisdiction?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, on a separate page specify the proceedings and attach copies of all related documents.

5. Temporary Practice Following Determination of Major Disaster

(Check all that apply)

Specify whether you will engage in temporary practice pursuant to:

☐ Iowa Court Rule 31.17(2) (pro bono legal services).
☐ Iowa Court Rule 31.17(3) (legal services reasonably related to lawyer's practice of law in the other jurisdiction, or area of such other jurisdiction, where the disaster occurred).

I agree that I am subject to the disciplinary procedures and authority of this court and the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct, the Standards for Professional Conduct, and any applicable local rules and procedures.

Yes ☐ No ☐

ATTORNEY CERTIFICATION

I certify under penalty of perjury and pursuant to the laws of the state of Iowa that the preceding is true and correct.

I certify under penalty of perjury and pursuant to the laws of the state of Iowa that I am licensed and in good standing and authorized to practice law in each jurisdiction listed above and my license is not subject to suspension or restriction in any jurisdiction.

_____ _____
Date Signature of Lawyer

[Court Order May 14, 2007]