



JACQUELYNN B. ROTHSTEIN
DIRECTOR

Supreme Court of Wisconsin

BOARD OF BAR EXAMINERS
110 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 715
MADISON, WI 53703-3328
TELEPHONE: (608) 266-9760
FAX: (608) 266-1196
bbe@wicourts.gov

August 5, 2010

Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson
Justice Ann Walsh Bradley
Justice N. Patrick Crooks
Justice David T. Prosser, Jr.
Justice Patience D. Roggensack
Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler
Justice Michael J. Gablemen
16 East State Capitol
Madison, WI 53701

Dear Honorable Justices:

At its June meeting, the Board of Bar Examiners (BBE) reviewed the matter of conditional admission. More specifically, the BBE reviewed changes to Rule Petition 08-13 (conditional admission) that Commissioner Julie Anne Rich drafted following the public hearing in the matter and after the court's open administrative conference held on March 9, 2009. By Order dated August 3, 2009, the court held the revised draft petition regarding conditional admission in abeyance pending the completion of the State Bar/OLR monitoring petition (08-28). The monitoring petition has since been successfully resolved and the BBE therefore revisited the revised conditional admission draft.

After reviewing the revised petition, the BBE agreed to accept and forward it to the court for further action. The Board strongly believes that the time is ripe to adopt a rule for conditionally admitting individuals into the Wisconsin bar. With frequency, the BBE reviews applicants whose histories would warrant conditional admission. Regrettably, however, they are only able to admit or deny applicants, rather than imposing conditions upon their admission, which would often be a more fitting option and one that would ensure greater protection of the public.

Board: James L. Huston, Chairperson, Whitefish Bay; Daniel D. Blinka, Vice-Chairperson; Milwaukee; Thomas M. Boykoff, Madison; Charles P. Dykman, Monona; Kurt D. Dykstra, Holland, MI; Linda Hoskins, Madison; Kenneth L. Kutz, Siren; James A. Morrison, Marinette; John Pray, Madison; Bonnie L. Schwid, Mequon

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Indeed, the BBE recently denied an applicant who was conditionally admitted in a neighboring state, but who otherwise would have been an ideal candidate for conditional admission had that option existed. Therefore, the BBE respectfully submits the revised Rule Petition 08-13 to the court and requests that the petition be adopted forthwith.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF BAR EXAMINERS

Jacquelynn B. Rothstein

Director

Attachment

cc: Members of the Board of Bar Examiners
Commissioner Julie Anne Rich