
In the Matter of the Petition for Amendment of Supreme Court Rules (SCR) 40.01 and 40.14 Relating to the Electronic Filing of Applications for Admission to the Bar and Payment of the Related Fees

PETITION

To: Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson
Justice Ann Walsh Bradley
Justice N. Patrick Crooks
Justice David Prosser, Jr.
Justice Patience D. Roggensack
Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler
Justice Michael J. Gableman

Filed with the Clerk of Court David R. Schanker
Clerk of Supreme Court Office
110 East Main Street, Suite #215
Madison, WI 53703

The Board of Bar Examiners, by its director John E. Kosobucki, petitions the Supreme Court of Wisconsin for orders amending Supreme Court Rules (SCR) 40.01 and 40.14, relating to the manner in which applicants file their applications for admission to the Wisconsin Bar and make the related payments. If the Court issues these orders, the affected sections will read as follows:

SCR 40.01 Definitions; list of law schools.

(3) "Electronic Application System" means a web-based system established by the Board of Bar Examiners with the assistance of the Director of the Consolidated Court Automation Programs through which persons may file documents required by this Chapter electronically. The system shall include a method for applicants to make payments by credit or debit card or by direct withdrawal from a checking or savings account. This system shall also include a means for confirming the date and time of the original submission to serve as proof of filing.

(4) "Electronic Signature" means an electronic sound, symbol or process attached to or logically associated with a document required by this Chapter that can be executed or adopted by the applicant with the intent to sign the document under oath or affirmation.

SCR 40.14 Application; fees.

(1) Applications to the supreme court for admission to the bar shall be filed with the board. Applications filed through the Electronic Application System must include the applicant's Electronic Signature, averring under oath or affirmation that the information contained in the application is true.

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(2m) Properly executed applications filed through the Electronic Application System are deemed filed when they are submitted to the system if they are accompanied by electronic payment of the appropriate fee or if, by arrangement made in advance with the Director or the Director's delegate, payment of the fee is received within 10 business days after submission.

JUSTIFICATION

Applicants for admission to the Wisconsin Bar can download application forms from the World Wide Web and can complete them on-line. However, for lack of a system for electronic signatures and payment, applicants must then print their applications and submit them to the board on paper. A web-based system will be more convenient both for applicants and the board. The board, therefore, asks the Court to adopt the proposed amendments to SCR 40.01 and 40.14, and to direct the CCAP and the Court's fiscal officer to assist in implementing this Electronic Application System as soon as conveniently possible.

Dated this 25th day of August, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

// Original Signed //

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