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Supreme Court of Wisconsin

IN THE MATTER OF AMENDING SCR 40.04 AND CREATING SCR 40.04(11) AND (12), AMENDING SCR 40.14(3)(A) AND CREATING SCR 40.14(3)(K), RELATING TO THE WISCONSIN BAR EXAMINATION

Rule Petition No. 26-07
Filed November 24, 2026

The Court entered the following order on this date:

On September 30, 2026, the Wisconsin Board of Bar Examiners, by its Director Jacquelynn Rothstein, filed this rule petition asking the court to amend SCR 40.04 and SCR 40.14 to establish standards and fees for accepting results from the NextGen bar examination. The petition is related to Rule Petition 25-04, *In re Amendment of SCR 40.04 and 40.14 Relating to the Wisconsin Bar Examination*, in which the court issued an order eliminating the Wisconsin bar examination and replacing it with the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE). The order was issued after the court held a public hearing and approved the UBE, which is now succeeded in several jurisdictions by the NextGen bar examination. The Board of Bar Examiners' petition also asks the court to increase the bar examination fee from $450 to $750. At a closed administrative conference, the court approved the amendments to SCR 40.04 and 40.14 establishing standards and fees for the NextGen bar examination with modifications to the proposed passing score. However, the request to increase the bar examination fee is denied because more information is needed to determine whether a fee increase is necessary and appropriate. Accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED that, effective the date of this order:

Section 1: Supreme Court Rule 40.04(11) is created to read:

(11) Commencing in July 2026, an applicant may be eligible for admission provided the applicant has received a scaled score of 610 or higher earned in another jurisdiction on the NextGen examination and the score is certified as a NextGen score by the National Conference of Bar Examiners. The applicant shall submit evidence of the score and a complete application for admission to the Board within 36 months of the date of the qualifying examination being used as the basis for the admission.

Section 2: Supreme Court Rule 40.04(12) is created to read:

(12)(a) Before being admitted to the practice of law in Wisconsin by NextGen examination or by transferred NextGen score, an applicant shall successfully complete 21 hours of the Wisconsin law and practice educational component.

(b) The Wisconsin law and practice educational component shall be completed no later than 12 months after receiving notification of a passing NextGen score or within 12 months of filing an application for admission via an eligible NextGen transfer score.

(c) The Wisconsin law and practice educational component shall be comprised of subject matter areas based on the requirements of the diploma privilege as found in SCR 40.03 and approved by the board.

Section 3: Supreme Court Rule 40.14(3)(k) is created to read:

Fee for admission by transferred NextGen score $450

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the request to amend SCR 40.14(3)(a) to increase the fee for taking the bar examination in Wisconsin is denied.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that notice of the above amendments be given by a single publication of a copy of this order in the official publications designated in SCR 80.01, including the official publishers' online databases, and on the Wisconsin court system's web site. The State Bar of Wisconsin shall provide notice of this order.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, this 24th day of November, 2026.

Samuel A. Christensen
Clerk of Supreme Court