

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COMMONWEALTH SUPERIOR COURT

RULES FOR LEGAL INTERN PROGRAM
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**RULES FOR LEGAL INTERN PROGRAM
FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH SUPERIOR COURT**

**1.
PERMISSION TO APPEAR IN CERTAIN
CASES AS A LEGAL INTERN.**

Notwithstanding any provision of any other rules to the contrary, qualified law students and graduates of approved law schools, upon application and approval in accordance with the requirements set forth in Rule 2 following, may be permitted to appear in the Commonwealth Superior Court as a "legal intern" and may be granted the privilege of representing either the Commonwealth or private individuals in certain limited cases as specified by the Court. This program is primarily designed for law students and law graduates from the Northern Mariana Islands but shall also be open to other qualified law students or law graduates.

**2.
APPLICATION TO APPEAR AS A LEGAL
INTERN - QUALIFICATIONS.**

A. Qualifications. The applicant when submitting an application must:

(1) Be a student duly enrolled and in good academic standing at a law school with legal studies completed which in the opinion of the Presiding Judge are sufficient for the type of cases in which the legal intern will appear, and, have the written approval of the applicant's law school dean, or a person designated by such dean; or

(2) Be a graduate from a law school within nine (9) months and submit satisfactory evidence thereof to the Presiding Judge.

(3) Certify in writing under oath that he or she has read, is familiar with, and will abide by the Code of Professional Responsibility.

B. Procedure:

(1) The applicant shall submit an application on a form provided by the Court. Such application shall set forth all of the qualifications of the applicant required in Rule 2. There shall be no fee for filing such application.

(2) The application shall give the name of, and shall be signed by, the supervising attorney, who, in doing so, shall assume the responsibilities of supervising attorney set forth in Rule 4 if the applicant is permitted to appear as a legal intern. The supervising attorney shall be relieved of such responsibilities upon the termination of the legal intern's term as established by the Court.

3.
SCOPE OF CASES IN WHICH A LEGAL INTERN MAY APPEAR.

A. The Court, on a case by case basis, shall authorize a legal intern to appear and represent clients. Said determination shall be based upon the types of courses completed by the legal intern, the type of case to be heard, the complexity of same and the balancing of advocacy in the case. A judge may, either before or during a trial, exclude a legal intern from active participation in a case in the interest of orderly administration of justice or for the protection of a litigant or witness, and shall thereupon grant a continuance to secure the attendance of the supervising attorney.

B. Before a legal intern will be authorized to appear in any case, there shall be signed and filed by the supervising attorney and the legal intern a written certification that the supervising attorney has discussed the case with the legal intern and that the legal intern is prepared and ready to appear and represent his or her client and that the client has been informed of the legal intern's status.

C. No legal intern may receive payment from a client for his or her services; however, nothing contained herein shall prevent a legal intern from being paid for his or her services by the intern's employer. If a client objects to being represented by a legal intern, the supervising attorney shall forthwith take over the case and proceed to handle the matter to disposition.

4.
**SUPERVISING ATTORNEY - QUALIFICATIONS, RESPONSIBILITIES,
AND DUTIES**

A. The supervising attorney shall be a person admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and who maintains an office within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or who represents the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

B. The supervising attorney shall direct, supervise, and review all of the work of the legal intern and both shall assume personal professional responsibility for any work undertaken by the legal intern while under his or her supervision. All pleadings, motions, briefs and other documents prepared by the legal intern shall be reviewed by the supervising attorney. When a legal intern signs any correspondence or legal document, the intern's signature shall be followed by the title "legal intern" and, if the document is prepared for presentation to the Court or for filing with the clerk thereof, the document shall also be signed by the supervising attorney.

C. No supervising attorney shall have supervision over more than one legal intern at any one time.

D. An attorney acting as a supervising attorney may be terminated as a supervising attorney at the discretion of the Court. In such a case, the legal intern shall cease performing any services under this rule and shall cease holding himself or herself out as a legal intern until or unless a new supervising attorney is approved by the Court.

E. The failure of a supervising attorney to provide adequate supervision or to comply with the duties set forth herein shall be grounds for terminating his status as supervising attorney and may be grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to the Disciplinary Rules of the Commonwealth Court.

F. For purposes of the attorney-client privilege, a legal intern shall be considered a subordinate of the supervising attorney.

5.
TERM OF LEGAL INTERN

A. The term of the legal intern shall be endorsed by the Presiding Judge on the approved application. In no event shall the term exceed 18 months.

B. If the approval of the law school dean is withdrawn, or the student ceases to be duly enrolled as a student prior to graduation or ceases to be in good academic standing, the privilege granted herein shall forthwith be terminated.

C. The privilege granted herein may be revoked at any time upon the Court's own motion, with or without cause.

D. Upon the termination of a law intern's term or upon the happening of any event terminating the privilege of being a law intern, the law intern shall immediately cease performing any services under these rules and shall cease holding himself or herself out as a legal intern.

LAW INTERN APPLICATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

I certify that I am currently enrolled in/have graduated from _____
(strike one) Law School

_____, the address of which is _____

Attached to this application is the approval of the Dean or his designee of the law school for me to serve as a legal intern, if I am not a law school graduate. If I am a law school graduate, I attach hereto proof of graduation and the date.

If my application is approved, my supervising attorney will be _____

I have completed the following courses at law school, all of which I passed unless otherwise noted:

I further certify that I have read, am familiar with, and will comply with the Code of Professional Responsibility if my application is approved.

I further certify that I have read and understand the Rules for Legal Interns promulgated by the Commonwealth Superior Court. I hereby add the following information to assist the

Court in appraising my application: (List here the types of cases you propose to engage in, the term of legal internship desired, etc.)

Dated: _____ Signature: _____
Applicant

Dated: _____ Signature: _____
Supervising Attorney

The above application is APPROVED/DISAPPROVED.

The term of legal internship shall be from _____
to _____.

Date: _____
Presiding Judge