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CLERK

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**IN RE AMENDMENT TO
RULES OF ADMISSION**

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2002-001

ORDER

¶1 On March 19, 2002, this Court issued a notice of intent to amend the Rules of Admission regarding the testing requirements for attorney-applicants. Attorney-applicants are attorneys who are licensed to practice law in U.S. jurisdictions and have been in active practice for at least five years out of the last twelve years. The Court solicited comments on the proposed amendments, but none was received.

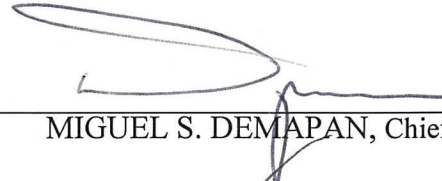
¶2 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that paragraphs 5(C), 5(D) and 5(I) of the Rules of Admission shall be amended to require attorney-applicants to take the following examinations:

1. Multistate Essay Examination (MEE);
2. Multistate Performance Test (MPT);
3. Commonwealth Local Law Essays; and
4. Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE)

The examinations, with the exception of the Commonwealth Local Law portion, are developed by the National Conference of Bar Examiners. The text of new paragraphs 5(C), 5(D) and

5(I) is set forth in Attachment A. The new testing requirements shall take effect beginning with the July 2002 bar examination.

Dated this 9th day of April, 2002.



MIGUEL S. DEMAPAN, Chief Justice



ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO, Associate Justice



JOHN A. MANGLONA, Associate Justice

Attachment A

*Paragraphs 5(C), 5(D) and 5(I) of the **Rules of Admission** shall be amended to read as follows:*

“5(C) Attorney Applicant: If an applicant is an attorney licensed to practice in any of the states, territories and possessions of the United States, and he or she has been in the active practice of law for at least five (5) out of the last twelve (12) years, he or she may apply to take the “Attorneys Bar Examination,” which the CNMI Supreme Court deems sufficient to demonstrate the ability of the attorney to practice in the Commonwealth.

The applicant must satisfy the CNMI Supreme Court that he or she is qualified to take the attorney’s examination. Special attention should be paid to verifying the applicant’s attorney license and practice requirements. The applicant shall provide the CNMI Supreme Court with a Certificate of Bar Admission and Good Standing when filing as an attorney applicant. Whether the attorney applicant has satisfied the required number of years of the active practice of law shall be determined exclusively by the CNMI Supreme Court.

The examination for attorney applicants shall consist of a full day examination including the Multistate Essay Examination (MEE), the Multistate Performance Test (MPT) and Commonwealth Local Law Essays. Attorney applicants are not required to take the MBE.

If the attorney applicant has not taken and passed the MPRE within three years of taking the Attorney Bar Examination, he or she shall apply directly to the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE), pay the testing fee with a cashier’s check or money order made payable to NCBE, and take the MPRE. Applicants must achieve a scaled score of at least 75.”

“5(D) Essay Portion: The essay portion of the CNMI bar examination shall be given either on a Wednesday or Friday. Applicants must arrive at the testing site, as designated by the Supreme Court, at 7:30 a.m.

Applicants are required to write legibly. If an applicant’s handwriting cannot be read, it may adversely affect the grading of the essay. Those applicants who wish to type their examination answers must so advise the Bar Administrator, in writing, at least thirty (30) days in advance of the

examination and must pay an additional \$50.00 fee. Standard examination paper, which will be distributed by the Bar Administrator, must be used. Each essay question must be answered in three pages or less, using only one side of the paper, unless more pages are indicated. A pen with black ink is recommended for handwritten answers.

Both the regular applicants and attorney applicants will be given up to twelve (12) essay questions to answer on the day(s) specified, and will be given the MPT on the day(s) specified. The amount of time to be allotted to answer each question will be indicated. However, applicants may divide up their time any way they wish when answering the questions during a given session.”

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“**5(I) Essay Subjects:** In addition to essays focusing on local law, the essay subjects for both regular applicants and attorney applicants may cover any of the following areas of law tested in the Multistate Essay Examination(MEE): (1) Agency and Partnership, (2) Commercial Paper, (3) Conflict of Laws, (4) Corporations, (5) Decedents’ Estates, (6) Family Law, (7) Civil Procedure, (8) Sales, (9) Secured Transactions, and (10) Trust and Future Interests.”