

STATE OF MAINE
SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT
AMENDMENTS TO
MAINE BAR ADMISSION RULES

2023 Me. Rules 02

Effective: March 1, 2023

All of the Justices concurring therein, the following amendments to the Maine Bar Admission Rules are adopted to be effective on the date indicated above. The specific amendments are stated below. To aid in the understanding of the amendments, an Advisory Note appears after the text of each amendment. The Advisory Note states the reason for recommending the amendment, but the Advisory Note is not part of the amendment adopted by the Court.

1. Rule 6(a) of the Maine Bar Admission Rules is amended to read as follows:

(a) Application Fees. Each application for admission to the bar shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee. Payment shall be made by debit card, credit card, personal check, cashier's check, certified check, or money order payable to the Board of Bar Examiners. The payee will be charged a convenience fee for any payment made by debit card or credit card.

Advisory Note – March 2023

The purpose of the change to subdivision (a) is to allow the Board to receive payments electronically at the time an application is filed. Now that the Board is accepting applications online, applicants expect to be able to pay the application fee online at the same time. The convenience fee is designed to offset the transaction cost that will be paid by the Board for electronic payment processing. Applicants who do not want to pay the convenience fee will still have the option to pay by other methods.

2. Rule 11A of the Maine Bar Admission Rules is amended to add a new subdivision (e), to read as follows:

(e) Admission Within One Year of Application Filing Date. The applicant must be admitted to practice within one year from the time that the application is filed with the Board. This one-year period may be enlarged for an additional six months by submitting to the Board, prior to expiration of the one-year period, a fee of \$100 and a completed extension form as prescribed by the Board. Only one such six-month extension is permitted. Thereafter, the time period may be enlarged by successive one-year periods by a Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court on motion for good cause shown during the period. The procedure for filing a motion to enlarge under this section is the same as in Rule 10(g).

Advisory Note – March 2023

New subdivision (e) adopts the Board’s current regulation permitting a six month extension upon timely submission of an extension form and administrative fee to the Board. This informal procedure addresses the common issue of applicants by motion needing additional time to complete the hours of continuing legal education required by subdivision (a)(8). In addition, this new section will align the requirement of timely admission for applicants by motion with the similar requirements of timely admission for applicants by examination and applicants by Uniform Bar Examination score transfer.

3. Rule 11B of the Maine Bar Admission Rules is amended to add a new subdivision (d), to read as follows:

(d) Admission Within One Year of Application Filing Date. The applicant must be admitted to practice within one year from the time that the application is filed with the Board. This one-year period may be enlarged by successive one-year periods by a Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court on motion for good cause shown during the period. The procedure for filing a motion to enlarge under this section is the same as in Rule 10(g).

Advisory Note – March 2023

New subdivision (d) clarifies that the one-year deadline for applicants taking the Uniform Bar Examination in Maine, see 4 M.R.S. § 805-A(3), also

applies to applicants transferring a Uniform Bar Examination score from another jurisdiction. This is an adoption of the Board's current practice of applying the deadline to both categories of applicants.

Dated: February 27, 2023

FOR THE COURT,*

_____/s/_____
VALERIE STANFILL
Chief Justice

ANDREW M. MEAD
JOSEPH M. JABAR
ANDREW M. HORTON
CATHERINE R. CONNORS
RICK E. LAWRENCE
Associate Justices

* This Rule Amendment Order was approved after conference of the Court, all Justices concurring therein.