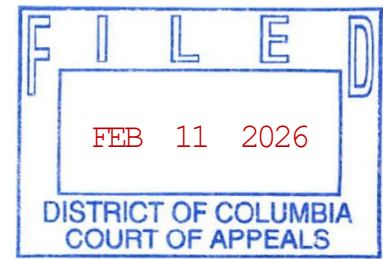


**District of Columbia
Court of Appeals**



M-295-26

BEFORE: Blackburne-Rigsby, Chief Judge, and Beckwith, Easterly, McLeese,
Deahl, Howard, and Shanker, Associate Judges.

NOTICE

(FILED – February 11, 2026)

The court is considering two possible revisions to D.C. App. R. 46, which governs admission to the D.C. Bar. First, under current D.C. App. R. 46(b)(1)(B)(iv) and 46(e)(3)(A), a person can meet one of the requirements for admission to the D.C. Bar if the person has been a “member[] in good standing of the bar of a court of general jurisdiction in the United States for a period of at least 3 years immediately” preceding the application for admission. The court is considering changing this requirement by requiring active practice, rather than mere membership in a bar. Such a change would address the concern that mere membership in a bar, without actual practice of law, does not adequately accomplish the purpose of Rule 46 to ensure that admittees to the D.C. Bar are competent to practice law. So as not to penalize persons who might have been out of the workforce for a reason such as illness or having a child, the proposed amendment requires three years of active practice during the preceding five years.

Second, the court is considering repealing D.C. App. R. 46(b)(1)(B)(iii) and (e)(3)(B), which are now-outdated provisions relating to applications for admission filed before March 31, 2022.

Clean and marked-up versions of the proposed amendments are attached.

This notice is published to afford interested parties an opportunity to submit written comments. Comments must be submitted by March 11, 2026. Comments may be submitted electronically to rules@dcappeals.gov, or in writing, addressed to

the Clerk, D.C. Court of Appeals, 430 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. All comments submitted pursuant to this notice will be available to the public.

PER CURIAM

Proposed amendments to Rule 46 (marked-up version)

Paragraph (b)(1) would be amended as follows:

(b) Admission to the Bar of this Jurisdiction.

(1) In General. Admission ~~shall~~may be based on:

...

(B) one of the following:

(i) examination in this jurisdiction;

(ii) transfer of a Uniform Bar Examination score attained in another jurisdiction; or

~~**(iii)** for persons who apply for admission to this Bar by March 31, 2022, based on a score obtained in a bar examination administered by July 2021, the applicant's qualifying score on the Multistate Bar Examination administered in another jurisdiction and membership in the bar of such other jurisdiction; or~~

~~**(iv)**~~**(iii)** active practice of law as a membership in good standing of a bar of a court of general jurisdiction in the United States for a period of at least 3 of the 5 years ~~immediately preceding years immediately prior to~~ the application for admission.

Paragraph (e)(3) would be amended as follows:

(e) Admission without Examination of Members of the Bar of Other Jurisdictions.

...

(3) Admissions Requirements. An applicant may be admitted to the Bar of this court without examination in this jurisdiction, if the applicant ÷

~~(A)~~ has actively practiced law as been a member in good standing of a bar of a court of general jurisdiction in the United States for a period of at least 3 of the 5 years immediately preceding the filing of the application;~~;~~ ~~or~~

~~(B)~~

~~(i) has been awarded a J.D. or LL.B. degree by a law school which, at the time of the awarding of the degree, was approved by the ABA; or, if the applicant graduated from a law school not approved by the ABA, the applicant successfully completed at least 26 credit hours of study in a law school that at the time of such study was approved by the ABA, with all such 26 credit hours having been earned in courses of study, each of which is substantially concentrated on a single subject tested on the UBE and which, if earned through remote instruction, meet the definition of “distance education course” set out in American Bar Association Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools;~~

~~(ii) has been admitted to the practice of law in any state or territory of the United States upon the successful completion of a written bar examination and has received a scaled score of 133 or more on the MBE which the state or territory deems to have been taken as a part of such examination;~~

~~(iii) has obtained the score in a bar examination administered by July 2021, and has applied for admission to this Bar by March 31, 2022; and~~

~~(iv) has taken and passed, in accordance with Rule 46(c)(5), the MPRE.~~

Proposed amendments to Rule 46 (clean version)

(b) Admission to the Bar of this Jurisdiction.

(1) In General. Admission shall be based on:

...

(B) one of the following:

(i) examination in this jurisdiction;

(ii) transfer of a Uniform Bar Examination score attained in another jurisdiction; or

(iii) active practice of law as a member in good standing of a bar of a court of general jurisdiction in the United States for a period of at least 3 of the 5 years immediately preceding the application for admission.

...

(e) Admission without Examination of Members of the Bar of Other Jurisdictions.

...

(3) Admissions Requirements. An applicant may be admitted to the Bar of this court without examination in this jurisdiction, if the applicant has actively practiced law as a member in good standing of a bar of a court of general jurisdiction in the United States for a period of at least 3 of the 5 years immediately preceding the filing of the application.