

M.R. 3140

**IN THE  
SUPREME COURT  
OF  
THE STATE OF ILLINOIS**

Order entered June 8, 2018.

(Deleted material is struck through, and new material is underscored.)

Effective January 1, 2019, Illinois Supreme Court Rules 704 and 706 are amended, and new Rule 704A is adopted, as follows.

**Amended Rule 704**

**Rule 704. Qualification on Examination**

(a) Every applicant for the Illinois bar examination shall file with the Board of Admissions to the Bar both a character and fitness registration application and a separate application to take the bar examination. The applications shall be in such form as the Board shall prescribe and shall be subject to the fees and filing deadlines set forth in Rule 706.

(b) In the event the character and fitness registration application and the separate application to take the bar examination shall be satisfactory to the Board, the applicant shall be admitted to the examination; provided, however, that the following applicants must first receive certification of good moral character and general fitness to practice law by the Committee on Character and Fitness pursuant to Rule 708 before they will be permitted to write the bar examination: (1) applicants who have been convicted of felonies; (2) applicants against whom are pending indictments, criminal informations, or criminal complaints charging felonies; (3) applicants who have been rejected, or as to whom hearings are pending, in another jurisdiction on a ground related to character and fitness; or (4) applicants admitted to practice in another jurisdiction who have been reprimanded, censured, disciplined, suspended or disbarred in such other jurisdiction or against whom are pending disciplinary charges or proceedings in that jurisdiction.

(c) The Board of Admissions to the Bar shall conduct separate examinations on academic qualification and professional responsibility. At least two academic qualification examinations shall be conducted annually, one in February and the other in July, or at such other times as the Board, in its discretion, may determine. At least three professional responsibility examinations shall be conducted annually, one in March, another in August, and another in November, or at such other times as the Board, in its discretion, may determine. The Board may designate the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination of the National Conference of Bar Examiners as the Illinois professional responsibility examination. The Board may determine the score that constitutes a passing grade.

(d) The academic qualification examination shall be conducted under the supervision of the

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~~the Board. The Illinois bar examination shall be the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) prepared by the National Conference of Bar Examiners, by uniform printed questions, and may be upon the following subjects: administrative law; agency and partnership; business organizations, including corporations and limited liability companies; commercial paper; conflict of laws; contracts; criminal law and procedure; family law; equity jurisprudence; evidence; federal and state constitutional law; federal jurisdiction and procedure; federal taxation; Illinois procedure; personal property, including sales and bailments; real property; secured transactions; suretyship; torts; trusts and future interests; and wills and decedents' estates. The academic qualification examination may also include a performance test. The Board may include the Multistate Bar Examination, the Multistate Essay Examination and the Multistate Performance Test of the National Conference of Bar Examiners as components of the examination.~~

(e) In the event the Board of Admissions to the Bar shall find that an applicant has achieved a passing score, as determined by the ~~the Board~~, on the academic and professional responsibility examinations, meets the requirements of these rules, and has received from the Committee on Character and Fitness its certification of good moral character and general fitness to practice law, ~~the Board~~ shall certify to the ~~the Court~~ that these requirements have been met; the Board may also transmit to the Court any additional information or recommendation it deems appropriate.

(f) For all persons taking the bar examination after the effective date of this rule, a passing score on the Illinois bar examination is valid for four years from the last date of the examination. An applicant for admission on examination who is not admitted to practice within four years must repeat and pass the examination after filing the requisite character and fitness registration and bar examination applications and paying the fees therefor in accordance with Rule 706.

Amended effective October 2, 1972; amended April 8, 1980, effective May 15, 1980; amended June 19, 1987, effective immediately; amended June 12, 1992, effective July 1, 1992; amended May 7, 1993, effective immediately; amended July 1, 1998, effective immediately; amended July 6, 2000, effective immediately; amended December 6, 2001; effective immediately; amended October 2, 2006, effective July 1, 2007; amended June 8, 2018, eff. Jan. 1, 2019.

#### **New Rule 704A**

##### **Rule 704A. Admission by Transferred Uniform Bar Examination Score**

An applicant who has taken the Uniform Bar Examination in a jurisdiction other than Illinois and earned or exceeded the scaled total score deemed passing by the Board may be admitted to the practice of law in this state on the following conditions:

(a) The scaled total score was achieved by taking all portions of the Uniform Bar Examination in the same jurisdiction and in the same exam administration and was attained within the four years immediately preceding the date the application for admission in this state is properly submitted.

(b) The applicant meets the educational requirements of Rule 703.

(c) In the event the Board of Admissions to the Bar shall find that an applicant has achieved a passing Uniform Bar Examination score as determined by the Board through

transfer from another jurisdiction, a required minimum score on professional responsibility examinations as required, meets the requirements of these rules, and has received from the Committee on Character and Fitness its certification of good moral character and general fitness to practice law, the Board shall certify to the Court that these requirements have been met; the Board may also transmit to the Court any additional information or recommendation it deems appropriate.

(d) The applicant is in good disciplinary standing before the highest court of every jurisdiction in which ever admitted.

(e) A person applying for admission under this Rule shall not be eligible for admission prior to November 7, 2019.

(f) For all persons transferring a Uniform Bar Examination score, the transferred score is valid for four years from date of the properly submitted application for admission with a transferred Uniform Bar Examination score. An applicant for admission under this Rule who is not admitted to practice in Illinois within four years of that date must either: i) repeat and pass the Illinois bar examination after filing the requisite character and fitness and bar examination applications, and paying the fees therefor, in accordance with Rule 706, or ii) submit a transferred Uniform Bar Examination score attained after the expiration of the previously submitted score.

Adopted June 8, 2018, eff. Jan. 1, 2019.

### **Amended Rule 706**

#### **Rule 706. Filing Deadlines and Fees of Registrants and Applicants**

**(a) Character and Fitness Registration.** Character and fitness registration applications filed with applications to take the bar examination shall be accompanied by a registration fee of \$450.

**(b) Applications to Take the Bar Examination.** The fees and deadlines for filing applications to take the February bar examination are as follows:

- (1) \$500 for applications submitted on or before the regular filing deadline of September 15 preceding the examination;
- (2) \$700 for applications submitted after September 15 but on or before the late filing deadline of November 1; and
- (3) \$1,000 for applications submitted after November 1 but on or before the final late filing deadline of December 15.

The fees and deadlines for filing applications to take the July bar examination are as follows:

- (1) \$500 for applications submitted on or before the regular filing deadline of February 15 preceding the examination;
- (2) \$700 for applications submitted after February 15 but on or before the late filing deadline of April 1; and
- (3) \$1,000 for applications submitted after April 1 but on or before the final late filing deadline of May 15.

**(c) Applications for Reexamination.** The fees and deadlines for filing applications for reexamination at a February bar examination are as follows:

(1) \$500 for applications submitted on or before the regular reexamination filing deadline of November 1;

(2) \$850 for applications submitted after November 1 but on or before the final late filing deadline of December 15.

The fees and deadlines for filing applications for reexamination at a July bar examination are as follows:

(1) \$500 for applications submitted on or before the regular reexamination filing deadline of May 1;

(2) \$850 for applications submitted after May 1 but on or before the final late filing deadline of May 15.

**(d) Late Applications.** The Board of Admissions to the Bar shall not consider requests for late filing of applications after the final bar examination filing deadlines set forth in the preceding subparagraphs (b) and (c).

**(e) Applications for Admission on Motion under Rule 705.** Each applicant for admission to the bar on motion under Rule 705 shall pay a fee of \$1,250.

**(f) Applications for Admission by Transferred Uniform Bar Examination Score Under Rule 704A.** Each applicant for admission to the bar by transferred UBE score under Rule 704A shall pay a fee of \$1250.

**(g)(f) Application for Limited Admission as House Counsel.** Each applicant for limited admission to the bar as house counsel under Rule 716 shall pay a fee of \$1,250.

**(h)(g) Application for Limited Admission as a Lawyer for Legal Service Programs.** Each applicant for limited admission to the bar as a lawyer for legal service programs under Rule 717 shall pay a fee of \$100.

**(i)(h) Recertification Fee.** Each applicant for Character and Fitness recertification shall pay a fee of \$450.

**(j)(i) Payment of Fees.** All fees are nonrefundable and shall be paid in advance by credit or debit card, certified check, cashier's check or money order payable to the Board of Admissions to the Bar. Fees of an applicant who does not appear for an examination shall not be transferred to a succeeding examination.

**(k)(j) Fees to be Held by Treasurer.** All fees paid to the Board of Admissions to the Bar shall be held by the Board treasurer, subject to the order of the eCourt.

Amended January 30, 1975, effective March 1, 1975; amended October 1, 1982, effective October 1, 1982; amended June 12, 1992, effective July 1, 1992; amended July 1, 1998, effective immediately; amended July 6, 2000, effective August 1, 2000; amended December 6, 2001, effective immediately; amended February 11, 2004, effective July 1, 2004; amended October 1, 2010, effective January 1, 2011; amended January 10, 2012, effective immediately; amended Nov. 26, 2013, effective Jan. 1, 2014; amended February 10, 2014, effective immediately; amended May 26, 2016, effective July 1, 2016; amended June 22, 2017, eff. July 1, 2017; amended June 8, 2018, eff. Jan. 1, 2019.