

Rule 14-704. Qualifications for admission of attorney applicants.

(a) Requirements of attorney applicants. The burden of proof is on the applicant to establish by clear and convincing evidence that he or she:

(a)(1) has paid the prescribed fees and filed the required application as an attorney applicant in accordance with Rule 14-707;

(a)(2) is at least 21 years old;

(a)(3) has graduated with a first professional degree in law (~~J.uris-D.octorate~~ or L.L.B. Bachelor of Laws) or equivalent degree from an approved law;

(a)(4) has been admitted to the practice of law before the highest court of a sister state or United States territory, or the District of Columbia for no fewer than five years, and have been substantially (meaning 50% or more) and lawfully engaged in the practice of law in the jurisdiction where licensed for any four of the five years immediately preceding the filing of the application. For purposes of this rule, the practice of law includes the following activities or the equivalent thereof:

(a)(4)(A) sole practitioner, or partner, shareholder, associate, or of counsel in a law firm; or

(a)(4)(B) an organization's employee whose principal responsibility is to provide legal advice or service; or

(a)(4)(C) government employee whose principal duties are to provide legal advice or service; or

(a)(4)(D) service in the United States armed forces in a legal capacity; or

(a)(4)(E) judge of a court of general or appellate jurisdiction requiring admission to a bar as a qualification for admission thereof; or

(a)(4)(F) law clerk to a judge of a court of general or appellate jurisdiction; or

(a)(4)(H) teaching full-time in an approved law school;

(a)(5) is of good moral character and has satisfied the requirements of Rule 14-708;

(a)(6) has successfully passed the Bar Examination as prescribed in Rule 14-710;

(a)(7) has successfully passed the MPRE as prescribed in Rule 14-713; and

(a)(8) has complied with the provisions of Rule 14-716 concerning licensing and enrollment fees;

Rule 14-704.

**Effective July 14, 2011 under Rule 11-105(5).
Subject to change after the comment period.**

31 (b) Attorney applicants from non-approved law schools. An applicant who does not
32 meet the educational qualifications in Rule 14-704(a)(3) is qualified provided the
33 applicant establishes by clear and convincing evidence that he or she:

34 (b)(1) has complied with the requirements in (a)(1) and (a)(2);

35 (b)(2) has complied with the requirements in (a)(5) through (a)(8);

36 (b)(3) has graduated with a first professional degree in law (J.D. or L.L.B.) or
37 equivalent degree, not based on study by correspondence or by internet study, from an
38 unapproved law school that is accredited in the jurisdiction where it exists and is the
39 substantial equivalent of the legal education provided by an approved law school;

40 (b)(4) has been admitted to the practice of law before the highest court of a sister
41 state of United States territory of the District of Columbia for no fewer than ten years,
42 and has been substantially (meaning 50% or more) and lawfully engaged in the practice
43 of law in one of more jurisdictions where licensed for any ten of the eleven years
44 immediately preceding the filing of the application. For purposes of this rule, the
45 practice of law includes the activities referenced above in (a)(4)(A) through (a)(4)(H);

46 (b)(5) has a proven record of ethical, civil and professional behavior and has never
47 been disbarred or resigned with discipline pending, or their equivalent, in any
48 jurisdiction.

49 (c) Election to take student Bar Examination. At the time of application, an attorney
50 applicant may elect to be examined under the student Bar Examination as prescribed in
51 Rule 14-710 and which is scored in accordance with Rule 14-711.

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