

Supreme Court of Florida

No. SC15-802

IN RE: AMENDMENT TO RULE 1-26 OF THE RULES OF THE SUPREME COURT RELATING TO ADMISSIONS TO THE BAR.

[May 28, 2015]

PER CURIAM.

On the Court’s own motion, the Court considers amending the Rules of the Supreme Court Relating to Admissions to the Bar. We have jurisdiction. See art. V, § 15, Fla. Const.

In 1997, the Court adopted Rule 1-26, “Liaison Committee,” of the Rules of the Supreme Court Relating to Admissions to the Bar. See Amends. to Rules of the Supreme Court Relating to Admissions to the Bar, 695 So. 2d 312 (Fla. 1997).

At that time, the Florida Board of Bar Examiners (Board) proposed the rule to establish a liaison committee that would coordinate the work of the bench, bar, law schools, and bar examiners. Id. at 317. In the eighteen years since Bar Admission Rule 1-26 was adopted, the Board has expanded its responsibilities to include routinely engaging in outreach and coordination activities. Board members, the

Executive Director of the Board, and Board staff visit each of Florida's law schools several times per year. The Board meets with law school deans, law professors, and other law school staff. Also, the Board conducts an orientation session for each incoming law school class, discussing the application for admission process, the requirement of candor, and the advantages of submitting an application for admission to the Bar during the first year of law school. Further, the Board engages in discussions monthly, and often weekly, with deans, associate deans, and other staff at the law schools. The issues examined during these discussions are usually presented to the full Board for its consideration. In addition, the Board presents issues and topics to the Court.

After considering the Board's substantial outreach and coordination responsibilities that have developed since Bar Admission Rule 1-26 was adopted, the Court concludes that there is no longer a need for a permanent liaison committee. The Court, on its own motion, hereby amends the Rules of the Supreme Court Relating to Admissions to the Bar by deleting Rule 1-26 and its subdivisions.

Accordingly, the Court amends the Rules of the Supreme Court Relating to Admissions to the Bar as set forth in the appendix to this opinion. The deletion is indicated by struck-through type. The amendment shall take effect on June 29, 2015, at 12:01 a.m. Because the amendment was not previously published for

comment, interested persons shall have sixty days from the date of this opinion in which to file comments with the Court.¹

It is so ordered.

LABARGA, C.J., and PARIENTE, LEWIS, QUINCE, CANADY, POLSTON, and PERRY, JJ., concur.

THE FILING OF A MOTION FOR REHEARING SHALL NOT ALTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THESE AMENDMENTS.

Original Proceeding – Rules of the Supreme Court of Florida Relating to Admissions to the Florida Bar

1. All comments must be filed with the Court on or before July 27, 2015, with a certificate of service verifying that a copy has been served on the Executive Director of the Florida Board of Bar Examiners, Michele Gavagni, 1891 Eider Court, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1750, gavagnim@flcourts.org, and the General Counsel of the Florida Board of Bar Examiners, Robert Blythe, 1891 Eider Court, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1750, blyther@flcourts.org, as well as a separate request for oral argument if the person filing the comment wishes to participate in oral argument, which may be scheduled in this case. The Executive Director has until August 17, 2015, to file a response to any comments filed with the Court. If filed by an attorney in good standing with The Florida Bar, the comment must be electronically filed via the E-Filing Portal in accordance with In re Electronic Filing in the Supreme Court of Florida via the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal, Fla. Admin. Order No. AOSC13-7 (Feb. 18, 2013). If filed by a nonlawyer or a lawyer not licensed to practice in Florida, the comment must be electronically filed via e-mail in accordance with In re Mandatory Submission of Electronic Copies of Documents, Fla. Admin. Order No. AOSC04-84 (Sept. 13, 2004). Electronically filed documents must be submitted in Microsoft Word 97 or higher. Any person unable to submit a comment electronically must mail or hand-deliver the originally signed comment to the Florida Supreme Court, Office of the Clerk, 500 South Duval Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1927; no additional copies are required or will be accepted.

Daryl M. Manning, Chair, Michele A. Gavagni, Executive Director, and Robert G. Blythe, General Counsel, Florida Board of Bar Examiners, Tallahassee, Florida,

for Petitioner

Appendix

~~1-26 Liaison Committee.~~

~~1-26.1 Purpose.~~ A permanent committee to coordinate the work of the bench, bar, law schools, and bar examiners is established to make recommendations to the court.

~~1-26.2 Membership.~~ The committee will consist of: 2 members of the Supreme Court of Florida, designated by the court; 2 members of the Florida Board of Bar Examiners, designated by the board; 2 members of The Florida Bar, designated by The Florida Bar Board of Governors; the deans of all accredited Florida law schools or colleges; and any law student representative(s) designated by the court.

~~1-26.3 Scheduling Meetings.~~ The committee will convene at the pleasure of the committee members from the Supreme Court of Florida, 1 of whom will be designated by the court as the presiding officer.