

FAQ about Tenn. Sup. Ct. Rule 7, § 10.03. Law Student Practice

- **Who can be certified for admission under this section?**

Any law student who has successfully completed one-half of the legal studies required for graduation from any school of law from which the graduate is eligible to take the Tennessee bar exam.

- **Who can request the Supreme Court to certify a student for admission?**

The dean of the approved law school *or* the director of the law school's clinical program.

The Tennessee Board of Law Examiners must approve the law school's clinical program and certify the approval to the Supreme Court before law students are approved to practice in a clinical setting.

- **What does the request for certification need to include?**

The dean or the director of the law school's clinical program files with the Appellate Court Clerk a request for certification that includes the names of students who are eligible for certification and certifies to the Supreme Court that those students meet the requirements of this section. A suggested form is posted at tncourts.gov and www.tnble.org.

- **Once approved, what is the student lawyer authorized to do?**

The student is authorized to provide legal services and/or appear in any municipal, county, or state court (not federal court) on behalf of any person or entity financially unable to afford counsel, the State of Tennessee, or any municipality or county in the state of Tennessee.

- **What happens after the Court approves the motion?**

The dean of the law school or the director of clinical education *must* transmit the names of the students who are certified to the legal aid office, public defender's office, district attorney's office, office of the Attorney General of Tennessee, the office of the General Counsel of any state agency, or the office of municipal or county legal director where the students are working.

- **Who supervises the law students after they are certified?**

The law students must be under the immediate and personal supervision of a member of the law school's faculty, a licensed legal aid attorney, a District Attorney General or designated Assistant District Attorney General, a District Public Defender or designated Assistant District Public Defender, the Attorney General of Tennessee or any assistant in his or her office, the general counsel of any State agency or any staff attorney in his or her office, or the director of a county or municipal legal office or designated staff attorney.

- **What is the duration of the approval?**

The written approval shall remain in force and effect until the student graduates from law school or ceases to be enrolled in the law school.