

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

2011 JAN 24 PM 3: 13

IN RE: AMENDMENT TO RULE 7, SECTION 5.01(b),
RULES OF THE TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT

No. M2010-02363-SC-RL2-RL

ORDER

Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 7, section 5.01 governs the minimum requirement for admission to the Tennessee bar of persons who are admitted to practice law in other jurisdictions. The Court hereby amends Section 5.01 paragraph (b) as indicated below (new text indicated by underlining):

Any person who has been admitted and licensed to practice law in one or more states or in the District of Columbia may apply for admission in this State without examination, provided that such applicant:

(a) * * * *

(b) has actively engaged in the practice of law pursuant to a license from one or more states or in the District of Columbia for five of the seven years immediately preceding such application for admission in this state. The application for comity admission shall be submitted to the Board of Law Examiners and approved prior to commencement of law business in Tennessee or employment as a lawyer in Tennessee. "Practice of law" as used in this section means full-time private or public practice as a licensed attorney, and includes being actively engaged as a full-time teacher of law in a law school approved by the American Bar Association, and may be construed in the Board's discretion as being actively engaged in other full-time employment requiring interpretation of law and application of legal knowledge (in which event the Board shall consider such evaluative criteria as time devoted to legal work, the nature of the work, whether legal training or a law license was a prerequisite of employment, and other similar matters). Without waiving the minimum five-year period, the Board, in its discretion and for exceptional circumstances shown by the applicant, may waive the requirement that such period immediately precede the application for admission in this State;

(c) * * * * [paragraphs (c) - (g) unchanged].

It is so ORDERED.

FOR THE COURT:

Cornelia A. Clark
CORNELIA A. CLARK, CHIEF JUSTICE