

STATE OF VERMONT
VERMONT SUPREME COURT
_____ TERM, 2008

Order Promulgating Amendments to § 6(i)(1) of the Rules for Admission to the Bar of the Vermont Supreme Court

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 37, of the Vermont Constitution and 12 V.S.A. § 1, it is hereby ordered:

1. That § 6(i)(1) of the Rules for Admission to the Bar of the Vermont Supreme Court is amended to read as follows (new matter underlined):

§ 6. Requirements for admission -- Applicants not presently admitted to the practice of law in another jurisdiction of the United States

(i)(1) An applicant who is a graduate of an approved law school shall also have pursued the study of law for a period of not less than three months in the office and under the supervision of a judge or an attorney practicing in this state. The judge or supervising attorney shall have been admitted to practice before this Court not less than three years prior to the commencement of that study. Such law office study may not commence until the completion of the first year of law school. This admission requirement shall be waived for individuals who are certified as having successfully completed the two-year General Practice Program offered at the Vermont Law School.

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Reporter's Notes – 2008 Amendments

Section 6(i) establishes the “law office study” requirement whereby all candidates for admission by examination must spend at least three months in a clerkship relationship with an attorney practicing Vermont law. The three-month clerkship requirement is intended to introduce candidates for admission to the Vermont bar to the day-to-day practice of Vermont law as well as to foster a mentoring relationship between the candidate and his or her supervising attorney.

The General Practice Program (GPP) at Vermont Law School, which has been in existence since 1987, is a two-year skills-based program that includes substantive coverage of a number of areas of Vermont law, including domestic relations, environmental law, commercial transactions, real estate, business planning, advanced torts, employment law, education law, bankruptcy, landlord-tenant law, criminal law, estates, and mediation, as well as office management skills such as managing multiple clients

with different legal problems. The program also includes a mentoring component in which students are assigned to practicing attorneys on a regular basis for conversation, reflection and observation of court appearances, client interviews, and other professional tasks.

Since candidates for admission who have completed the program have been exposed in a rigorous and supervised way to Vermont law and practical lawyering skills, and have worked with attorneys practicing law in Vermont, the Board of Bar Examiners has determined that they should be routinely waived from the three-month clerkship requirement.

2. That these rules as amended or added are prescribed and promulgated to become effective on _____ . The Reporter's Notes are advisory.

3. That the Chief Justice is authorized to report these amendments to the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of 12 V.S.A. § 1, as amended.

Dated in Chambers at Montpelier, Vermont, this ____ day of _____, 2008.

Paul L. Reiber, Chief Justice

John A. Dooley, Associate Justice

Denise R. Johnson, Associate Justice

Marilyn S. Skoglund, Associate Justice

Brian L. Burgess, Associate Justice