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Transitional Policy for Clerkships Completed Under Prior Rule § 6(i).

Prior Rule § 6(i) required applicants for admission by examination to complete a clerkship under the supervision of a Vermont attorney or judge. Under the new rules of admission, effective April 18, 2016, the pre-admission clerkship requirement is replaced with a post-admission mentorship and CLE program. The Board of Bar Examiners and the MCLE Board have adopted a transitional policy for 2016 applicants who have completed a clerkship under Prior Rule § 6(i). This transitional policy applies to: (1) applicants with pending applications for admission by examination as of February 16, 2016; (2) applicants for admission by examination who achieve Vermont's passing score on the July 2016, February 2017, or July 2017 exam; and (3) applicants for admission by transferred UBE score whose applications are filed no later than December 31, 2016.

Substitution of Clerkship for Mentorship in Certain Circumstances. An applicant who is covered by this transitional policy may substitute a properly completed and documented clerkship for the mentorship required by Rule 12(a)(2), if: (1) the applicant began the clerkship no sooner than January 1, 2013; (2) the applicant completed the clerkship no later than June 1, 2016; and (3) the applicant timely met all requirements of the prior rules regarding the clerkship.

Applicants Admitted Beginning April 18, 2016 Must Complete the Post-admission CLE Program. All applicants for admission by examination or transferred UBE score admitted to the Vermont bar after April 18, 2016 must complete the CLE requirements of Rule 12(a)(1).

Applicants With Pending Applications for Admission by Examination May Briefly Delay Admission to Comply with New Rules. Some applicants have pending applications for admission by examination because they passed the Vermont bar exam in a recent administration but have not yet completed other requirements for admission, including the clerkship. An applicant in this position may have the option to delay admission until after the effective date of the new rules (April 18, 2016) and comply with new Rule 12 instead of the prior clerkship requirement. Applicants interested in this option should contact bar counsel at michael.kennedy@vermont.gov

Applicants must be aware, however, that new Rule 20(a) provides: "An Applicant for admission by examination must satisfy all requirements for admission no later than 2 years from the date of the examination on which the Applicant achieved a passing score, or the Application will be deemed withdrawn."