

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

9176

Misc. Docket No. 03- \_\_\_\_\_

ORDER AMENDING RULE VI  
RULES GOVERNING ADMISSION TO THE BAR OF TEXAS

IT IS ORDERED that the *Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Texas*, are amended in the following manner:

**Amend Rule VI to read as follows:**

- (a) Every person who is beginning law study in an approved law school in Texas for the first time (an entrant) and who intends to apply for admission to the Bar of Texas shall, unless prohibited from filing by these Rules, file with the Board a Declaration of Intention to Study Law, on a form promulgated by the Board.
  - (1) The Declaration shall show:
    - (A) the history, experience, and educational qualifications of the Declarant;
    - (B) the approved law school in which the Declarant is or was enrolled;
    - (C) the Declarant's criminal history;
    - (D) the Declarant's history of mental illness;
    - (E) the Declarant's history with regard to charges of fraud in any legal proceeding;
    - (F) the Declarant's involvement in any civil litigation or bankruptcy proceedings;
    - (G) the Declarant's willingness to take the oath required of attorneys in Texas;
    - (H) the Declarant's history as to compliance with court orders regarding child support and spousal support;
    - (I) the Declarant's history regarding re-payment of federally guaranteed student loans;
    - (J) the Declarant's history regarding the filing of required federal income tax returns and the payment of federal income tax liability;
    - (K) the Declarant's history regarding payment to the IRS of payroll taxes (s)he collected as an employer of others; and
    - (L) such other information regarding the Declarant as the Board deems reasonably related to its investigation of the Declarant's moral character and fitness.
  - (2) The Board may require the Declarant to provide, in addition, such supporting documents relating to the Declarant as the Board deems reasonable.
  - (3) The Board may also require the Declarant to execute a consent form supplied by the Board, authorizing all persons, firms, officers, corporations, associations, organizations, and institutions to furnish to the Board or any of its authorized representatives, all relevant documents, records, or other information pertaining to the Declarant.

- (b) The timely filing deadline for such Declaration, for which no late fees shall be charged, shall be as follows:

Fall entrants, October 1;  
Regular spring entrants, May 1;  
Spring entrants at quarter-hour law schools, June 1;  
Summer entrants, September 15.

- (c) Declarations filed with the Board after the timely filing deadline will be accepted with the payment of applicable late fees as set forth in Rule XVIII, so long as they are filed by the absolute deadline set out in Rule IX(a)(3). However, regardless of the date a Declaration is filed, the Board shall have 270 days from the date the Declaration is filed to conduct its character and fitness investigation and notify the Declarant of the Board's determination, as provided in Rule VIII(a).
- (d) Upon receipt of a Declaration, the Board shall note the filing date in its records. Absent a Declarant's written request to retain a Declaration, all Declarations will be destroyed five years after the date of filing if the Declarant has not activated his or her file by applying to take the Texas Bar Examination during that five year period.
- (e) The Board shall conduct a complete investigation of the moral character and fitness of the Declarant, ~~including a preliminary investigation before forwarding any Declaration and supporting documentation to any District Committee on Admissions, as provided in Rule VII.~~

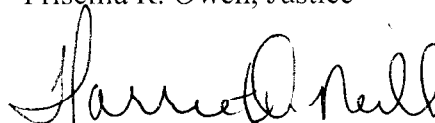
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT this order shall be effective immediately.

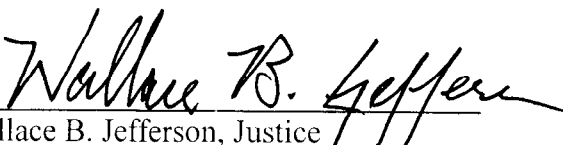
SIGNED AND ENTERED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2003.

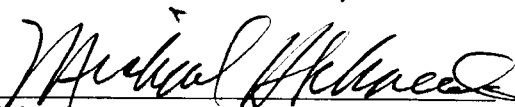
\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas R. Phillips, Chief Justice

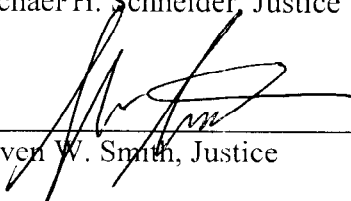
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nathan L. Hecht, Justice

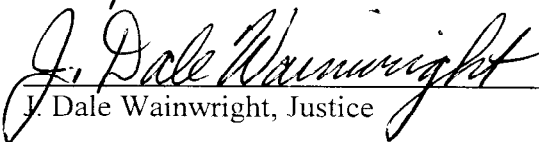
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Priscilla R. Owen, Justice

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Harriet O'Neill, Justice

  
Wallace B. Jefferson, Justice

  
Michael H. Schneider, Justice

  
Steven W. Smith, Justice

  
J. Dale Wainwright, Justice