

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Misc. Docket No. 21-9036

ORDER AMENDING SUPERVISED PRACTICE RULE II(B)(2)(a)(ii) AND THE TEMPORARY WAIVER OF SUPERVISED PRACTICE RULE IV(B)(1)

ORDERED that:

1. On May 20, 2020, in Misc. Dkt. No. 20-9069, the Court gave final approval to the *Rules Governing the Supervised Practice of Law by Qualified Law Students and Qualified Unlicensed Law School Graduates in Texas* (“Supervised Practice Rules”) pursuant to Section 81.102(b) of the Texas Government Code.

2. The Court amends Rule II(B)(2)(a)(ii) of the Supervised Practice Rules as follows.

3. In light of the unprecedented statewide power outages and damage caused by last month’s winter storms and the disruption some applicants faced preparing for the February 2021 bar examination, the Court also amends Paragraph 5 of Misc. Dkt. No. 20-9069 as follows to ensure that supervised practice under the Supervised Practice Rules remains an option for applicants who chose to wait and take the March 2021 make-up examination or the July 2021 examination:

On a temporary basis, Rule IV(B)(1) is relaxed for 2019 and 2020 law graduates, as well as for graduates in prior years who have been serving as judicial law clerks, to the extent it prohibits those graduates from obtaining or maintaining a supervised practice card because they are approaching or have passed the 14-month anniversary of their graduation. Those graduates are permitted, on a temporary basis, to engage in the activities permitted under the Rules—provided that they meet all other requirements and obtain a supervised practice card—until the earlier of July~~December~~ 1, 2021, or the occurrence of another terminating event in Rule IV(B).

4. The Clerk of the Supreme Court is directed to:

a. file a copy of this Order with the Secretary of State;

b. cause a copy of this Order to be mailed to each registered member of the State Bar of Texas by publication in the *Texas Bar Journal*;

c. send a copy of this Order to each member of the Legislature; and

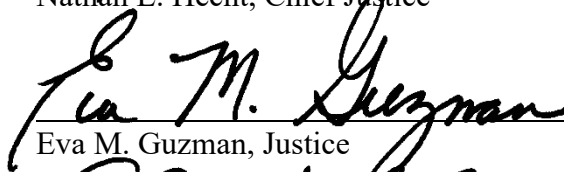
d. submit a copy of this Order for publication in the *Texas Register*.

5. The Texas law school deans are requested to take all reasonable steps to notify their affected students of this Order.

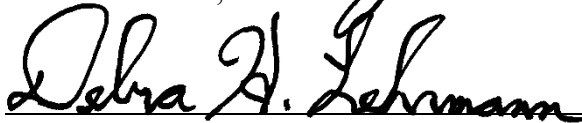
Dated: March 30, 2021.



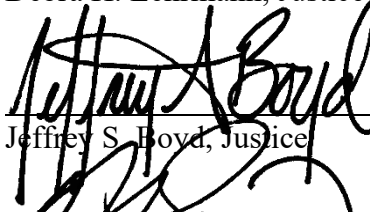
Nathan L. Hecht, Chief Justice



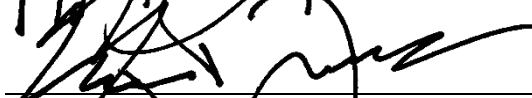
Eva M. Guzman, Justice



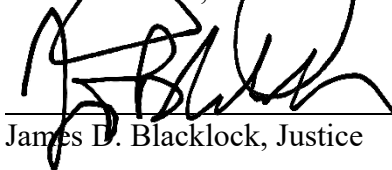
Debra H. Lehrmann, Justice



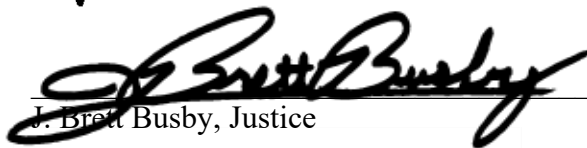
Jeffrey S. Boyd, Justice



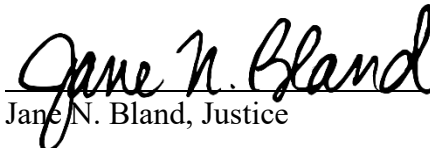
John F. Devine, Justice



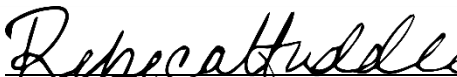
James D. Blacklock, Justice



J. Brett Busby, Justice



Jane N. Bland, Justice



Rebeca A. Huddle, Justice

**Rules Governing the Supervised Practice of Law by Qualified Law Students and Qualified
Unlicensed Law School Graduates in Texas**

**Rule II. Eligibility; Qualified Law Student and Qualified Unlicensed Law School Graduate
Defined**

B. A qualified law student is a student who:

(1) is enrolled at a law school accredited or provisionally accredited by the American Bar Association, except that the law student need not be enrolled during a summer term or when school is not in session, in one of the following programs:

(a) a juris doctorate program; or

(b) an LL.M. program that satisfies the requirements of Rule 13 of the *Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Texas*; and

(2) is certified by the dean of his or her law school or by the dean's designee to:

(a) have satisfactorily completed:

(i) at least two-thirds of the required juris doctorate curriculum for graduation as computed on an hourly basis;

(ii) at least ~~one-third of the~~ school's required juris doctorate curriculum for graduation computed on an hourly basis full-time first-year juris doctorate student if the student is enrolled in a clinical legal education program; or

(iii) at least one-half of the required LL.M. curriculum for graduation computed on an hourly basis if the student is enrolled in a clinical legal education program; and

(b) not be on academic probation; and

(c) possess the present good moral character and fitness required to practice law.
