

Proposed New Rule for Admission of Attorneys providing delineated pathway for Limited Licensees to gain Full Membership in the Oregon State Bar

15.10 Limited License Conversion Rule

- (1) Definitions for this RFA 15.10 shall include the following:
 - (a) “Limited License” means the license given to a licensee under House Counsel (RFA 16.05), Military Spouse (RFA 18.05), Law Teacher (RFA 11.05), or Foreign Law Consultant (RFA 12.05));
 - (b) “Full-time practice of law” means the term provided for in RFA 15.05(1)(d)(i).
- (2) Attorneys who have taken and passed the bar examination in another United States jurisdiction, who are active members of the bar in any other state, district or territory of the United States, and who currently hold a Limited License in Oregon may become a regular member of the Oregon State Bar if they meet the following qualifications, subject to the requirements of this rule:
 - (a) The applicant has been licensed to practice law in at least one United States jurisdiction for at least 24 consecutive months;
 - (b) The applicant has not been subject to any disciplinary suspension within the 60 months immediately preceding the submission of the application for admission under this rule;
 - (c) The applicant has not been subject to any administrative suspensions within the last 24 months;
 - (d) The applicant has no known ongoing disciplinary cases, investigations, or inquiries in any other jurisdiction; and
 - (e) The applicant has been actively engaged in the authorized full-time practice of law for no less than 24 of the 48 months immediately preceding the application for admission under this rule.
- (3) An applicant for admission under this rule shall:
 - (a) Submit sufficient proof, to the satisfaction of the Board, that the applicant has:
 - (i) Earned a (1) Juris Doctor (J.J.) or (2) Bachelor of Law (LL.B.) degree from an ABA accredited law school; or satisfied the requirements of RFA 3.05(3);
 - (ii) Passed a bar examination in another state, commonwealth, district or territory of the United States;
 - (iii) Been admitted to the practice of law in at least one other state, commonwealth, district or territory of the United States;
 - (iv) Current active membership to the practice of law in the highest court of at least one other state, commonwealth, district or territory of the United States of America; and
 - (v) Been engaged in the authorized full-time practice of law for a minimum of 24-months out of the 48-months immediately preceding the date that the applicant

submits their application for admission as an attorney in another state in which they were authorized to practice law in or in a state that does not presently prohibit the type of practice of law that was conducted by the applicant in said state.

- (b) Possess the good moral character and fitness required of all other applicants for admission to the practice of law in Oregon;
 - (c) Complete the Limited License Conversion application approved by the Board, and submit such other information as may be required by the Board and the Court within six (6) months of the date of filing the application; and
 - (d) Pay the relevant Conversion Application Fee stated in RFA 4.10(2)(c).
- (4) The character and fitness review and investigation related to the Applicant's conversion shall be focused on the period since they filed their last application with the Oregon State Bar, or if it is believed that applicant made misrepresentations on a prior application, the investigations shall also consider evidence related to such misrepresentations.
- (5) An applicant admitted to practice law pursuant to this rule shall complete and certify prior to admission under this rule that the applicant has attended at least 15 hours of continuing legal education on Oregon practice and procedure and ethics requirements as regulated and approved by the Board. An applicant must attend and complete the required continuing legal education hours any time between six (6) months prior to and six (6) months after the filing of an application.
- (a) Applicants who have gone through a MCLE reporting cycle in Oregon as required to maintain their limited license shall have this CLE requirement waived upon establishing that they met their MCLE requirements during their last reporting cycle, and that they are currently in compliance with all MCLE requirements for their limited license. In the alternative, if an Applicant has completed 15 hours of continuing legal education in order to obtain a limited license in Oregon within the 12 months preceding the Conversion Application filed under this RFA 15.10, then the requirements of RFA 15.10 shall be waived.
- (6) An applicant admitted to practice law pursuant to this rule shall obtain and maintain malpractice coverage from the Oregon State Bar Professional Liability Fund (PLF) as required by the rules and regulations of the fund. If an applicant is exempt from the requirement to maintain malpractice insurance, the applicant shall provide sufficient proof that the applicant qualifies for a PLF exemption from malpractice coverage.
- (7) An applicant admitted to practice law pursuant to this rule shall be subject to and shall comply with the Oregon Rules of Professional Conduct, the Oregon State Bar Rules of Procedure, and all other rules and regulations applicable to members of the Oregon State Bar.

Conforming Rule Change in RFA 4.10(2)(c):

4.10(2)(c) – Comity Application Fee/Conversion Application Fee: The alternative admission application fee for applicants seeking admission under RFA 15.05 (Comity Admission) is \$1,750. For applicants with a current limited license, but seeking to gain full membership in the Oregon State Bar through a

conversion application under RFA 15.10, the Conversion Fee is one-half the Comity Fee stated in the preceding sentence.