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CAROL G. GREEN CLERK APPELLATE COURTSLES RELATING TO ADMISSION OF ATTORNEYS

## **RULE 703**

## ADMISSION TO THE BAR WITHOUT WRITTEN EXAMINATION

Supreme Court Rule 703 is hereby adopted, effective July 1, 2005:

- (a) Any applicant for admission to the bar of Kansas who was duly admitted to the practice of law upon written examination by the highest court of another state or in the District of Columbia may be admitted to practice in this state without written examination, upon showing that the applicant:
  - (1) is licensed in at least one jurisdiction that permits mutuality of admission without examination for members of the Kansas bar;
  - (2) has never failed a written Kansas bar examination;
  - (3) presently meets the requirements of Rules 702 and 704 to take the Kansas bar examination;
  - (4) has never received professional discipline of suspension, disbarment, or loss of license in any other jurisdiction;
  - (5) is not currently the subject of a pending disciplinary investigation in any other jurisdiction;
  - (6) is a person of good moral character and mentally and emotionally fit to engage in the active and continuous practice of law; and
  - (7) has been lawfully engaged in the active practice of law outside the State of Kansas, or in Kansas under Rule 706, for five of the seven years immediately preceding the date of his or her application. For purposes of this rule, the "active practice of law" shall include the following activities:
    - (i) Representation of one or more clients in the practice of law;
    - (ii) Service as a lawyer with a local, state or federal agency, including military service, with the primary duties of furnishing legal counsel, drafting legal documents and pleadings, interpreting and giving advice regarding the law or preparing, trying or presenting cases before courts, departments of government or administrative agencies;
    - (iii) Service as corporate counsel with the same primary duties as described in subsection (7)(ii) above;
    - (iv) Employment as a teacher of law at a law school approved by the American Bar Association throughout the applicant's employment;
    - (v) Service as a judge in a federal, state or local court, provided that such employment is available only to licensed attorneys;
    - (vi) Service as a judicial law clerk; or

- (vii) Any combination of the above.
- Applicants shall furnish such proof of practice as may be required by the Board of Law Examiners.
- (b) Each applicant to the bar without written examination shall pay an application fee as provided in Rule 707 and shall file in duplicate on forms approved by the Supreme Court and procured from the Clerk of the Appellate Courts:
  - (1) a verified petition for admission,
  - (2) such other and further information as the Board of Law Examiners or the Disciplinary Administrator's Office may require in the consideration of his or her application, and
  - (3) a designation of the clerk of the appellate courts for service of process.
- (c) The Board of Law Examiners shall review each application under this rule and, if deemed necessary, shall interview each applicant and will report its findings and recommendations in writing to the Supreme Court. The Board retains full authority to conduct investigations and hearings pursuant to Rule 704 in the course of its review.
- (d) When the Board recommends denial of an application under this rule, its recommendation shall be submitted to the Supreme Court and a copy thereof shall be filed with the Clerk of the Appellate Courts, who shall thereupon mail or otherwise furnish a copy to the applicant. The applicant may, within twenty days of the filing thereof, file exceptions to the recommendations of the Board. Upon request by the Court, the Board will file a response to any such exceptions within twenty days following such request. The Supreme Court will then make a final determination based upon the record, exceptions and response, if any, and enter its final order. Any applicant whose application under this rule is denied by the Supreme Court by reason of lack of good moral character shall not be permitted to reapply in this State under any rule until three years shall have elapsed from the date the previous application was denied by the Court.
- (e) When an application under this rule is granted by the Supreme Court, the applicant shall appear before the Clerk of the Appellate Courts to take the oath and sign the roll of attorneys. The Clerk shall thereafter issue applicant a certificate of authority to practice law in this State.

By order of the Court, this 28th day of January 2005.

Kay McFarland, Chief Justice