

**CHAPTER 31**  
**ADMISSION TO THE BAR**

**Rule 31.1 Board of law examiners.**

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**31.1(2) Duties.**

a. The board may adopt rules to govern the method of conducting the bar examination. Such rules must be consistent with these rules and are subject to supreme court approval.

b. The authority to pass on the sufficiency of applications for permission to take the bar examination is vested in the board of law examiners, subject to supreme court review.

c. The members of the board authorized to grade examinations will make the final decision on passage or failure of each applicant, subject to the rules of the supreme court. The board must also recommend to the supreme court for admission to practice law in this state all applicants who pass the bar examination and the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination, and who meet the requisite character and fitness requirements. The board, in its discretion, may permit an applicant to take the bar examination prior to finally approving that person as to character and fitness. It may impose specific conditions for admission based on its evaluation of character and fitness and must withhold recommendation of admission until those conditions are satisfied. An applicant who passes the bar examination must satisfy such character and fitness conditions and any other conditions imposed by the board within one year of the date of the applicant's passage of the examination. This period may be extended by the board upon the applicant's showing of good cause. If any conditions imposed are not satisfied within the applicable period of time, the applicant's passage of the examination is null and void and the applicant must retake the bar examination in order to gain admission. The supreme court will make the final determination as to those persons who are admitted to practice in this state.

d. An applicant who has passed the examination and is eligible for admission must be administered the lawyer's oath ~~by a supreme court justice or affirmation~~ within one year of the date the bar examination score was posted or the date of fulfilling all eligibility requirements, whichever is later. An applicant who fails to be administered the oath within this deadline will no longer be eligible for admission and the applicant's passage of the examination will be null and void. This deadline may only be extended by the board upon a showing of exceptional circumstances.

e. An applicant who has passed the examination and is eligible for admission must appear for admission by oath or affirmation before an Iowa Supreme Court justice, unless the supreme court orders otherwise based upon the applicant's satisfactory showing of exceptional circumstances.

f. An applicant may file a petition seeking permission to file a written lawyer's oath or affirmation. The petition must set forth in detail the exceptional circumstances that render the applicant unable to appear for admission before

an Iowa Supreme Court justice. If the supreme court grants the petition, the office of professional regulation will forward all documents required for executing the oath or affirmation to the applicant. The supreme court will deem the applicant admitted to the Iowa bar on the date the completed documents are filed with the office of professional regulation.

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#### **Rule 31.4 Admission by transferred UBE score.**

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##### **31.4(6) Oath or affirmation before Iowa Supreme Court; exceptions.**

a. An applicant who is granted admission by transferred UBE score must appear for admission by oath or affirmation before an Iowa Supreme Court justice, unless the supreme court orders otherwise based upon the applicant's satisfactory showing of exceptional circumstances.

b. An applicant may file a petition seeking permission to ~~be administered the file a written~~ lawyer's oath or affirmation ~~in the jurisdiction in which the applicant is currently licensed or before a judge advocate general if the applicant is currently a member of one of the armed services of the United States.~~ The petition must set forth in detail: the exceptional circumstances that render the applicant unable to appear for admission before an Iowa Supreme Court justice; ~~the name, title, business address, and telephone number of the justice, judge, clerk of court, court administrator, or judge advocate general who will administer the lawyer's oath or affirmation; and the statute or court rule authorizing that person to administer an oath or affirmation.~~

c. If the supreme court grants the petition, the office of professional regulation will forward all ~~required~~ documents required for executing the oath or affirmation to the applicant. The ~~applicant-supreme court~~ will ~~be deemed~~deem the applicant to be admitted to the Iowa bar on the date the completed documents are filed with the office of professional regulation.

d. ~~The~~Within one year after the supreme court grants the petition, the applicant must take the lawyer's oath or affirmation from an Iowa Supreme Court justice, or file the written oath or affirmation. ~~If the applicant's oath or affirmation is not completed within one year, after the date the application for admission is granted or the supreme court will deem~~ the application ~~will be deemed~~ to be denied.

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#### **Rule 31.13 Proofs of qualifications; oath or affirmation.**

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##### **31.13(2) Oath or affirmation.**

a. An applicant whose application for admission without examination is granted must appear for admission before a supreme court justice, unless the supreme court orders otherwise based upon a satisfactory showing of exceptional circumstances.

b. An applicant may file a petition seeking permission to ~~be administered the file a written~~ lawyer's oath or affirmation ~~in the jurisdiction in which the applicant is currently~~

~~licensed or before a judge advocate general if the applicant is currently a member of one of the armed services of the United States.~~ The petition must set forth in detail: the exceptional circumstances that render the applicant unable to appear for admission before ~~a justice of the supreme court of an~~ Iowa Supreme Court justice; ~~the name, title, business address, and telephone number of the justice, judge, clerk of court, court administrator, or the judge advocate general who will administer the lawyer's oath or affirmation; and the statute or court rule authorizing that person to administer an oath or affirmation.~~

c. If the supreme court grants the petition, the office of professional regulation will forward all required documents to the applicant. The ~~supreme court applicant~~ will ~~be deemed~~deem the applicant to be admitted to the Iowa bar on the date the completed documents are filed with the office of professional regulation.

d. ~~The~~Within six months after the date the application for admission on motion is granted, the applicant must take the lawyer's oath or affirmation from an Iowa Supreme Court justice, or file the ~~completed paperwork from an out of state written~~ oath or affirmation, ~~within six months after the date the application for admission on motion is granted.~~If the applicant's oath or affirmation is not completed within six months, or the ~~the supreme court application~~ will ~~be deemed~~deem the application to be denied.