



State of New York Court of Appeals

*Andrew W. Klein
Clerk of the Court*

*Clerk's Office
Albany, New York 12207-1095*

September 19, 2012

NOTICE TO THE BAR

Pro Bono Requirement for Admission to Practice in New York State

The Court of Appeals has amended the Rules of the Court of Appeals for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law by adding section 520.16 to the Rules, which provides that applicants admitted to the New York State bar on or after January 1, 2015 must complete at least 50 hours of qualifying pro bono service prior to filing an application for admission. The Rule does not apply to applicants for admission on motion.

A copy of the order amending the Rules of the Court of Appeals is attached.

Further information about the added section, including Frequently Asked Questions and the Advisory Committee's Report is available at:

www.nycourts.gov/attorneys/probono/baradmissionreqs.shtml.

The New York State Unified Court System's Press Release is located at:
www.nycourts.gov/whatsnew/.

State of New York, Court of Appeals

*At a session of the Court, held at Court of
Appeals Hall in the City of Albany
on the.....14th.....day
of.....September, 2012*

Present, HON. JONATHAN LIPPMAN, *Chief Judge, presiding*

In the Matter

of

The Amendment of the Rules of the Court of Appeals
for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law.

Pursuant to section 53 of the Judiciary Law, it is hereby

ORDERED, that Part 520 of the Rules of the Court of Appeals for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR Part 520) is amended, effective January 1, 2013, or as soon thereafter as section 52 of the Judiciary Law is complied with, to add section 520.16 thereto. Section 520.16 provides as follows:

§ 520.16 Pro Bono Requirement for Bar Admission

(a) Fifty-hour pro bono requirement. Every applicant admitted to the New York State bar on or after January 1, 2015, other than applicants for admission without examination pursuant to section 520.10 of this Part, shall complete at least 50 hours of qualifying pro bono service prior to filing an application for admission with the appropriate Appellate Division department of the Supreme Court.

(b) Pro bono service defined. For purposes of this section, pro bono service is supervised pre-admission law-related work that:

(1) assists in the provision of legal services without charge for

(i) persons of limited means;

(ii) not-for-profit organizations; or

(iii) individuals, groups or organizations seeking to secure or promote access to justice, including, but not limited to, the protection of civil rights, civil liberties or public rights;

(2) assists in the provision of legal assistance in public service for a judicial, legislative, executive or other governmental entity; or

(3) provides legal services pursuant to subdivisions two and three of section 484 of the Judiciary Law, or pursuant to equivalent legal authority in the jurisdiction where the services are performed.

(c) Supervision required. All qualifying pre-admission pro bono work must be performed under the supervision of:

- (1) a member of a law school faculty, including adjunct faculty, or an instructor employed by a law school;**
- (2) an attorney admitted to practice and in good standing in the jurisdiction where the work is performed; or**
- (3) in the case of a clerkship or externship in a court system, by a judge or attorney employed by the court system.**

(d) Location of pro bono service. The 50 hours of pro bono service, or any portion thereof, may be completed in any state or territory of the United States, the District of Columbia, or any foreign country.

(e) Timing of pro bono service. The 50 hours of pro bono service may be performed at any time after the commencement of the applicant's legal studies and prior to filing an application for admission to the New York State bar.

(f) Proof required. Every applicant for admission shall file with the appropriate Appellate Division department an Affidavit of Compliance with the Pro Bono Requirement, describing the nature and dates of pro bono service and the number of hours completed. The Affidavit of Compliance shall include a certification by the supervising attorney or judge confirming the applicant's pro bono activities. For each position used to satisfy the 50-hour requirement, the applicant shall file a separate Affidavit of Compliance.

(g) Prohibition on political activities. An applicant may not satisfy any part of the 50-hour requirement by participating in partisan political activities.