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CNMI SUPREME COURT
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Case No.: ADM-2022
NoraV Borja

IN THE
SUPREME COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE AMENDMENTS TO THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS SUPREME COURT RULES,
TITLE IX, RULES OF ADMISSION

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2022-ADM-0016-RUL

ORDER ADOPTING INTERIM SUPREME COURT RULE 73-2

¶ 1 The CNMI Constitution vests in the Chief Justice the authority to “propose rules governing . . . admission to and governance of the bar of the Commonwealth.” Art. IV § 9.¹ Such proposed rules shall be submitted to the legislature and become effective sixty days thereafter unless disapproved by a majority of the members of either house of the legislature. Under this authority, the Court on its own motion finds it necessary to amend Rule 73-2 of the *Northern Mariana Islands Supreme Court Rules, Title IX, Rules of Admission* to allow attorneys with a limited admission license to practice in the Commonwealth for a maximum of eight (8) years without having to take the NMI bar exam.

¶ 2 Therefore, it is hereby ORDERED that the proposed *Northern Mariana Islands Supreme Court Rules, Title IX, Rules of Admission 73-2*, attached as Exhibit A, is adopted in the interim and is effective immediately pending the approval or disapproval by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

SO ORDERED this 29th day of July, 2022.

/s/

ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
Chief Justice

/s/

JOHN A. MANGLONA
Associate Justice

/s/

PERRY B. INOS
Associate Justice

¹ Since the Supreme Court’s authority to propose rules regarding admission to practice is constitutional in nature, the adoption of the proposed Rule 73-2 would thereby render unconstitutional any inconsistent provisions in 1 CMC § 3603(a).

EXHIBIT A AMENDMENT TO RULE 73-2

Effective July 29, 2022



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Rule 73-2. Limited Admission

- (a) Application for Limited Admission. An attorney may apply for limited admission to practice law before the Commonwealth courts without taking any portion of the bar examination.
- (b) Requirements. To be eligible for limited admission under Rule 73-2, the attorney must:
 - (1) Be a salaried employee of the Commonwealth Government or Micronesian Legal Services Corporation;
 - (2) Have passed the bar exam and be admitted to practice law in another jurisdiction of the United States of America; and
 - (3) Provide a certificate of good standing for every jurisdiction the attorney is admitted.
- (c) Scope. Admission under Rule 73-2 is limited to legal work performed for the Commonwealth Government or the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation.
- (d) Application. An attorney seeking admission under Rule 73-2 shall pay the limited admission application fee and file the following documents, and any other documents as required by the Board, with the Bar Administrator:
 - (1) Application for Limited Admission Form “G”;
 - (2) Affidavit Form “B”;
 - (3) Authorization and Release Form “C”;
 - (4) NCBE Request for Preparation of Character Report Form “D” and prescribed fee in accordance with Rule 71-5;
 - (5) NCBE Application and Authorization and Release Forms which must be filled out online and can be found at the NCBE official website;
 - (6) Evidence of educational qualification as prescribed in Rule 71-2(b);
 - (7) Certificate of Good Standing from every jurisdiction that the requesting attorney is admitted to practice law;
 - (8) A certification letter from the applicant’s employer which verifies the date of hire; and
 - (9) Proof of payment of the limited admission application fee.
- (e) The Rule 73-2 applicant may not practice law for the Commonwealth Government or for Micronesian Legal Services Corporation until the application has been approved and the applicant has taken the Oath of Admission pursuant to Rule 75-2.
- (f) Duty to Report. Attorneys admitted pursuant to Rule 73-2 shall report to the Bar and the Supreme Court any changes in their employment within seven (7) days.
- (g) Rule 73-2 Continuing Legal Education Credits. In addition to the Bar’s Continuing Legal Education (CLE) requirements, an attorney admitted under

Rule 73-2 must participate in Judiciary community outreach programs for at least ten (10) CLE credits per CLE reporting requirements.

- (h) Term. The term of the attorney's limited admission is four (4) years, commencing on the date of the Oath of Admission under Rule 75-2. The term runs successively and may not be tolled.
- (i) Extensions. An attorney admitted under Rule 73-2 may apply once to extend the term of admission for an additional four (4) years. To be eligible for an extension, the attorney must:
 - (1) Apply for an extension of limited admission under Rule 73-2. An application for extension must be submitted to the Bar Administrator at least thirty (30) days before the term expires. The attorney must not practice beyond the term of limited admission until the application for extension is approved by the Supreme Court to be effective.
 - (2) Pay the limited admission extension application fee.
 - (3) Meet the requirements under Rule 73-2(b) and (c) of being a salaried employee of the Commonwealth Government or Micronesian Legal Services Corporation. The application for extension must include:
 - (A) A sworn verification that the attorney continues to meet all of the requirements of Rule 73-2(b), and
 - (B) Proof of payment of the limited admission extension application fee.