

Supreme Court of Texas

Misc. Docket No. 25-9070

Preliminary Approval of Amendments to Rule 1 of the Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Texas

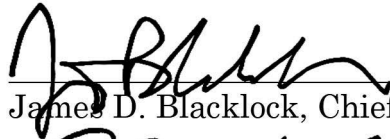
ORDERED that:

1. On April 4, 2025, the Court invited comments on the law school accreditation component of the Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Texas. Specifically, the Court requested feedback on:
 - a. whether to reduce or end the Rules' reliance on the American Bar Association; and
 - b. alternatives the Court should consider.
2. After further consideration of the matter, including review of the many helpful comments received, the Court is of the tentative opinion that the ABA should no longer have the final say on whether a law school's graduates are eligible to sit for the Texas bar exam and become licensed to practice law in Texas.
3. The Court therefore proposes amendments to Rule 1 of the Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Texas.
4. The Court invites public comments on the proposed amendments. Comments should be submitted in writing to rulescomments@txcourts.gov by December 1, 2025.
5. The Court will issue an order finalizing the amendments after the close of the comment period. The Court expects the amendments to take effect on January 1, 2026.
6. Commenters and other interested parties are advised that the Court, in re-asserting its authority over the approval of law schools:

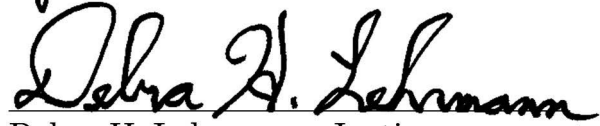
- a. intends to preserve the portability of Texas law-school degrees into other states and to preserve the portability of out-of-state law-school degrees into Texas;
 - b. does not intend to impose additional accreditation, compliance, or administrative burdens on currently approved law schools, which need not take any additional action in order to remain approved law schools in Texas;
 - c. intends to provide stability, certainty, and flexibility to currently approved law schools by guaranteeing ongoing approval to schools that satisfy a set of simple, objective, and ideologically neutral criteria (such as bar exam passage rate) using metrics no more onerous than those currently required by the ABA;
 - d. will not consider the fact that a law school loses ABA accreditation to be sufficient grounds for removal of the school from Texas's list of approved schools;
 - e. intends to develop, in consultation with the Texas Board of Law Examiners, a deliberative approach to requests from law schools not currently accredited by the ABA that wish to be added to Texas's list;
 - f. does not anticipate immediate changes to the current list of approved law schools; and
 - g. may consider, in the future, returning to greater reliance on a multi-state accrediting entity other than the ABA should a suitable entity become available.
7. The Texas Board of Law Examiners is directed to publish on its website the initial list of law schools approved by the Court as satisfying the law study requirements for licensure. That list, which is attached to this order, includes all law schools that are currently approved under the Court's existing rules.
8. The Clerk is directed to:
 - a. file a copy of this order with the Secretary of State;
 - b. cause a copy of this order to be mailed to each registered member of the State Bar of Texas by publication in the *Texas Bar Journal*;
 - c. send a copy of this order to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and each elected member of the Legislature; and

- d. submit a copy of this order for publication in the *Texas Register*.

Date: September 26, 2025.

A stylized, cursive signature of James D. Blacklock in black ink.

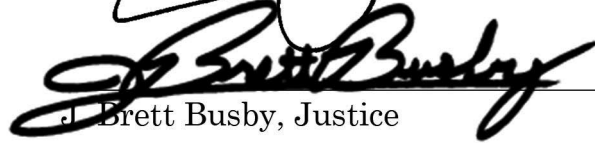
James D. Blacklock, Chief Justice

A cursive signature of Debra H. Lehrmann in black ink.

Debra H. Lehrmann, Justice

A cursive signature of John P. Devine in black ink.

John P. Devine, Justice

A cursive signature of J. Brett Busby in black ink.

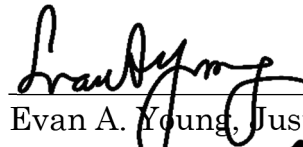
J. Brett Busby, Justice

A cursive signature of Jane N. Bland in black ink.

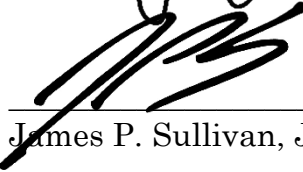
Jane N. Bland, Justice

A cursive signature of Rebeca A. Huddle in black ink.

Rebeca A. Huddle, Justice

A cursive signature of Evan A. Young in black ink.

Evan A. Young, Justice

A cursive signature of James P. Sullivan in black ink.

James P. Sullivan, Justice

Rule 1
Definitions and General Provisions

(a) Frequently used terms are defined as follows:

(4) “Approved law school” means a law school approved by the ~~American Bar Association~~ Supreme Court.

Supreme Court of Texas

Approved Law Schools

The below law schools are approved by the Court as satisfying the law study requirements for admission to the Texas Bar:

Akron	Chicago
Alabama	Chicago-Kent
Albany	Cincinnati
American	City University of New York
Appalachian	Cleveland State
Arizona	Colorado
Arizona State	Columbia
Arkansas – Fayetteville	Connecticut
Arkansas – Little Rock	Cooley Law School
Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School	Cornell
Ave Maria School of Law	Creighton
Baltimore	Dayton
Barry University	Denver
Baylor	DePaul
Belmont University	Detroit Mercy
Boston College	District of Columbia
Boston University	Drake
Brigham Young	Drexel
Brooklyn	Duke
Buffalo	Duquesne
California – Berkeley	Elon
California – Davis	Emory
California – San Francisco	Faulkner
California – Irvine	Florida
California – Los Angeles	Florida A&M
California Western	Florida International
Campbell	Florida State
Capital	Fordham
Case Western Reserve	George Mason
Catholic University of America	Georgetown
Chapman	George Washington
Charleston	Georgia

Georgia State
Golden Gate
Gonzaga
Harvard
Hawaii
Hofstra
Houston
Howard
Idaho
Illinois Chicago
Illinois
Indiana University – Bloomington
Indiana University – Indianapolis
Inter American
Iowa
Jacksonville
Judge Advocate General’s School
Kansas
Kentucky
Lewis and Clark
Liberty
Lincoln Memorial
Louisiana State
Louisville
Loyola – Chicago
Loyola – Los Angeles
Loyola – New Orleans
Maine
Marquette
Maryland
Massachusetts
McGeorge
Memphis
Mercer
Miami
Michigan State
Michigan
Minnesota
Mississippi College
Mississippi
Missouri
Missouri – Kansas City
Mitchell Hamline
Montana

Nebraska
Nevada
New England Law – Boston
New Hampshire
New Mexico
New York Law School
New York University
North Carolina
North Carolina Central
North Dakota
Northeastern
Northern Illinois
Northern Kentucky
Northwestern
Notre Dame
Nova Southeastern
Ohio Northern
The Ohio State
Oklahoma
Oklahoma City
Oregon
Pace
Pennsylvania
Penn State – Dickinson Law
Pepperdine
Pittsburgh
Pontifical Catholic of Puerto Rico
Puerto Rico
Quinnipiac
Regent
Richmond
Roger Williams
Rutgers
St. John’s
Saint Louis
St. Mary’s
St. Thomas (Florida)
St. Thomas (Minnesota)
Samford
San Diego
San Francisco
Santa Clara
Seattle
Seton Hall

South Carolina
South Dakota
South Texas – Houston
Southern University
Southern California
Southern Illinois
Southern Methodist
Southwestern
Stanford
Stetson
Suffolk
Syracuse
Temple
Tennessee
Texas
Texas A&M
Texas Southern
Texas Tech
Toledo
Touro
Tulane
Tulsa
UNT Dallas
Utah
Vanderbilt
Vermont
Villanova
Virginia
Wake Forest
Washburn
Washington and Lee
Washington Washington
University Wayne State
Western New England
Western State
West Virginia
Widener – Delaware
Widener –
Commonwealth
Willamette
William and Mary
Wilmington
Wisconsin
Wyoming

Yale
Yeshiva