

1 **15-203. Application.**

2 A. **Form of application.** All applications shall:

3 (1) be made under oath or affirmation;

4 (2) be on forms or in a method as may be required by the board;

5 (3) include the applicant's full name, any aliases or other names used, age,
6 current residence, residential addresses for at least the five (5) years immediately preceding the
7 date of application, citizenship, occupations, general and legal background, information as to the
8 applicant's background and moral character, and other information as may be required by the
9 board; and

10 (4) contain any information relating to the applicant's qualifications and
11 eligibility as may be required by the board.

12 B. **Additional documentation.** Unless otherwise specified for the chosen method of
13 licensure, after submitting an application, an applicant shall cause to be submitted to the board the
14 following within the prescribed time period:

15 (1) **Credit report.** A full credit report issued by one (1) of the three (3) major
16 credit reporting agencies and printed within thirty (30) days of submission of the application for
17 admission.

18 C. **Separate documentation.** Unless otherwise specified for the chosen method of
19 licensure, an applicant shall promptly arrange for the following to be submitted to the board
20 directly from the appropriate issuing person or body:

21 (1) **Transcript.** A properly authenticated law school transcript evidencing
22 graduation with a juris doctor or bachelor of laws and letters degree from a law school;

1 (2) **Law school certification form.** A grant of permission, in a form prescribed
2 by the board, permitting the board to obtain specified information from the applicant’s law school;

3 (3) **Fingerprints.** Fingerprints pursuant to a method or service prescribed by
4 the board, for the purposes of obtaining the applicant’s identification record from the Federal
5 Bureau of Investigation and New Mexico Department of Public Safety; and

6 (4) **Character and fitness statements.** Character and fitness statements from
7 three (3) actively licensed attorneys certifying that the applicant is a person of good moral character
8 and physically and mentally qualified for admission. The statements must be from persons who
9 are in good standing in any state, familiar with the applicant’s qualifications, and not related to the
10 applicant.

11 D. **Documentation if admitted to another bar.** Unless otherwise specified for the
12 chosen method of licensure, for each state in which an applicant is, or has previously been admitted
13 to practice law, the applicant shall also arrange for the following to be submitted directly to the
14 board:

15 (1) **Good standing certificate.** One (1) or more certificates by the state’s law
16 license issuing authority to the effect that the applicant is in good standing.[:

17 ~~(a) is in good standing to practice law and has not been disbarred, been~~
18 ~~placed under suspension, or withdrawn or resigned from the practice of law while under~~
19 ~~disciplinary investigation;~~

20 ~~(b) not the subject of any pending disciplinary investigations or~~
21 ~~proceedings; and~~

22 ~~(c) if the applicant has been suspended or disbarred, that the applicant~~
23 ~~has been duly reinstated;]~~

1 (2) **Disciplinary history.** A document showing the applicant’s disciplinary
2 history from that state’s issuing authority, describing all of the applicant’s history of discipline that
3 is disclosable based on that state’s rules and policies;

4 (3) **Unaccredited law school applicants.** If the applicant is not a graduate of a
5 law school accredited by the ABA at the time of the applicant’s graduation:

6 (a) The character and fitness statements referenced above must be from
7 members of the bar of each state in which applicant is admitted; and

8 (b) Each of the good standing certificate(s) referenced above must also state that the applicant has
9 been licensed to practice law in that state for at least four (4) years before the date of the certificate.

10 E. **Course on New Mexico law.** All applicants must submit to the board, prior to
11 being issued a license, evidence of attendance at, and successful completion of, a course approved
12 by the board or Supreme Court, which shall include Indian law, New Mexico community property
13 law, and professionalism.

14 F. **Filing deadlines.** The filing deadlines, if any, for an application and required
15 documentation, are as described in the rule for each method of licensure. For any application-
16 related deadline specified in these rules, a filing shall be considered timely if the document is
17 submitted in the manner specified by the board before 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time on the day of the
18 deadline. The board shall not accept an application filed after the specified deadlines.

19 G. **Updating required.** Throughout the pendency of an application, including any
20 character and fitness review, and any period during which a matter is on appeal to the Supreme
21 Court, an applicant shall continually update the board with respect to all matters inquired of in the
22 application or by the board.

1 H. **Repeat applications.** The number of repeat applications for any method of
2 licensure that an applicant may make, or the number of examinations that an applicant may take,
3 is unlimited. Thus, if an applicant is denied admission, withdraws an application, or after
4 submitting an application does not receive a license for any other reason, the applicant may again
5 submit an application according to Rule 15-201(D) NMRA. Any resubmitted application shall be
6 accompanied by payment of all prescribed fees for the selected method of licensure.

7 I. **Withdrawal of application.** An applicant may, at any time before admission or
8 denial of admission, withdraw an application by giving notice to the board. The board may deem
9 an applicant's application withdrawn if the applicant has failed to respond to requests in Paragraph
10 (G) within six (6) months of the request or failed to submit all documents requested by the board
11 by twelve (12) months after the submission date of the application, although an applicant may
12 request a six (6) month extension of time to submit documents requested by the board by
13 submitting a written request before the expiration of the twelve (12) month period. An applicant
14 whose application has been withdrawn may file a new application following the procedure
15 described in Rule 15-201(D) NMRA. Fees and costs paid on a withdrawn application shall be
16 forfeited and not returned except as described in Rule 15-204 NMRA.

17 J. **Document retention and destruction.** No original papers submitted by an
18 applicant will be returned. The board may destroy documents in compliance with records retention
19 requirements set forth in 1.21.2.667-668 NMAC.

20 K. **No deferrals.** An application may not be deferred.

21 [As amended, effective November 14, 1988; July 24, 1996; February 28, 2002; as amended by
22 Supreme Court Order No. 07-8300-004, effective March 1, 2007; as amended by Supreme Court
23 Order No. 14-8300-021, effective for the February 2015 bar examination and subsequent bar

1 examinations; as amended by Supreme Court Order No. 15-8300-018, effective November 1,
2 2015; as amended by Supreme Court Order No. S-1-RCR-2023-00036, effective December 31,
3 2023; as amended by Supreme Court Order No. S-1-RCR-2025-00122, effective January 2, 2026.]