

1 **15-301. Examination method.**

2 A. **Description.** As further specified in this rule, a qualified applicant may apply for a
3 license to be issued on the applicant's satisfactory completion of all requirements for this method
4 of licensure, including receipt of a passing score on the bar examination. Recent law school
5 graduates typically select this method of licensure, although the method of licensure described in
6 this rule may be sought by any qualified applicant.

7 B. **Application deadlines.** A complete application for a license under this rule, along
8 with required fees, must be submitted to the board on or before the deadlines specified below.
9 Applications for the February examination will open on September 1st of each year. Applications
10 for the July examination will open on February 1st of each year. An application submitted after
11 the pertinent filing deadline will be rejected.

12 (1) Applications filed after November 1st for the February examination shall
13 incur a late fee;

14 (2) The final deadline to submit an application for the February examination
15 shall be ~~January 1st~~ December 15th of the previous year;

16 (3) Applications filed after May 1st for the July examination shall incur a late
17 fee;

18 (4) The final deadline to submit an application for the July examination shall
19 be ~~June 1st~~ May 15th of the same year.

20 C. **Qualifications.** An applicant for license under this rule shall provide proof that the
21 applicant meets the qualifications set forth in Rule 15-202 NMRA, and must pass all examinations
22 described in Rule 15-501(A) NMRA.

1 D. **Character and fitness.** The board shall make a determination about the character
2 and fitness of an applicant as set forth in Rule 15-205 NMRA for any applicant who has submitted
3 an application for a license under this rule. An applicant shall pay any fees and costs associated
4 with a character and fitness hearing.

5 E. **Procedure for issuance.** On the board's receipt from an applicant of (a) a
6 completed application for a license under this rule, (b) the required fees and costs, and (c)
7 documents required by Paragraph C, then

8 (1) the board shall evaluate the applicant's character and fitness as described
9 in Rule 15-205 NMRA;

10 (2) the applicant may take examinations described in Article 5 of these rules,
11 even if a character and fitness evaluation is not yet complete; and

12 (3) on the board's determination the applicant is qualified and possesses the
13 requisite character and fitness, and that the applicant has passed the MPRE, and the applicant has
14 passed the examination of the minimum competence to practice law within two (2) years of
15 completing all requirements under these rules, the board shall follow the requirements of Rule 15-
16 207(A) NMRA for recommending issuance of a license to the applicant, and the applicant shall
17 comply with the requirements of Rule 15-207(B) NMRA. The board may extend the expiration of
18 examination results on showing of good cause.

19 F. **Fees and costs.** The following fees and costs must be paid by the applicant on
20 submission of the application for a license under this rule, and shall not offset fees and costs
21 required to apply for another method of licensure:

22 (1) ***Application fee.*** An application fee according to a published schedule of
23 application fees promulgated by the board and approved by the Supreme Court;

1 (2) **Investigation costs.** Investigation costs according to the schedule of pass-
2 through costs promulgated by the board as described in Rule 15-204(B) NMRA; and

3 (3) **Late fee.** When applicable as set forth in Paragraph B of this rule, a late fee
4 of five hundred dollars (\$500.00).

5 G. **Specific ongoing requirements.** An applicant approved for a license under this
6 rule shall comply with the requirements of Rule 15-206 NMRA and Rule 15-207 NMRA.

7 H. **Limitations.** A person practicing law under a license issued under this rule is not
8 subject to any limitation, unless otherwise ordered by the Supreme Court.

9 I. **Expiration.** A license issued under this rule does not expire.

10 J. **Suspension of license.** A license issued under this rule is only subject to suspension
11 as described in the Rules Governing Discipline, Rules 17-101 to -316 NMRA.

12 K. **Revocation.** A license issued under this rule is only subject to revocation as
13 described in Rule 15-201(F) NMRA and the Rules Governing Discipline, Rules 17-101 to -316
14 NMRA.

15 [As amended, effective November 1, 1994; as amended by Supreme Court Order No. 20-8300-
16 001, effective August 31, 2020; as amended by Supreme Court Order No. S-1-RCR-2023-00036,
17 effective December 31, 2023; as amended by Supreme Court Order No. S-1-RCR-2025-00122,
18 effective January 2, 2026.]