

**PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE RULES GOVERNING ADMISSION TO THE BAR  
PROPOSAL 2026-034**

**March 6, 2026**

The State Bar of New Mexico has recommended amendments to Rule 15-601 NMRA for the Supreme Court's consideration.

If you would like to comment on the proposed amendments set forth below before the Court takes final action, you may do so by either submitting a comment electronically through the Supreme Court's website at <https://supremecourt.nmcourts.gov/rules-forms-files/rules-forms/open-for-comment/> or sending your written comments by mail, email, or fax to:

Elizabeth A. Garcia, Chief Clerk of Court  
New Mexico Supreme Court  
P.O. Box 848  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0848  
rules.supremecourt@nmcourts.gov  
505-827-4837 (fax)

**Your comments must be received by the Clerk on or before April 5, 2026**, to be considered by the Court. Please note that any submitted comments may be posted on the Supreme Court's website for public viewing.

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**15-601. Composition and tenure.**

A. **Composition.** The board shall be composed of twelve bar examiners, eleven of whom shall be appointed by the Supreme Court and one by the president of the State Bar. [~~The Supreme Court shall appoint each bar examiner.~~]

B. **Term.** To ensure continuity of policy and procedures, bar examiners shall serve in staggered terms of five (5) years each, with the bar examiners divided into five classes; classes I and II shall each consist of three bar examiners, and classes III, IV, and V shall each consist of two bar examiners. The term of board service for all classes shall commence on January 1st. While a bar examiner may be reappointed [~~by the Supreme Court~~] for an indefinite number of terms, the Supreme Court may require rotation of the bar examiners to bring new viewpoints and promote continuing interest in the board's work. A bar examiner may resign by notifying the board chair, who shall then inform the Supreme Court. If a bar examiner vacancy occurs mid-term, then the [~~Supreme Court~~] original appointing entity shall appoint a bar examiner to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term for the vacant seat.

C. **Officers.** The board shall nominate for the Supreme Court's approval a chair and a vice-chair from the bar examiners. The board shall select a secretary-treasurer, who need not be a bar examiner. The chair shall preside at all meetings of the board and shall be responsible for communicating with the Supreme Court on behalf of the board.  
[Adopted by Supreme Court Order No. S-1-RCR-2023-00036, effective December 31, 2023; as amended by Supreme Court Order No. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_.]





New Mexico Courts

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Supreme Court <noreply@nmcourts.gov>  
Reply-To: noreply@nmcourts.gov  
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Wed, Mar 11, 2026 at 10:18 AM

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**Proposal Number** 2026-034

**Comment** The Board of Bar Examiners has reviewed and would request that the amended rule include a requirement that the Board of Bar Commissioners appointee also be a member of the Board of the Board of Bar Commissioners (as opposed to just a State Bar member). Additionally, the Board of Bar Examiners would ask that the current composition of the Board not be disrupted in terms of the current members. Meaning the Board would ask that no current member be removed to make place for a new appointee.



**New Mexico  
Courts**

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1 message

**Supreme Court** <noreply@nmcourts.gov>

Tue, Mar 24, 2026 at 2:00 PM

Reply-To: noreply@nmcourts.gov

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**Proposal  
Number** 2026-034

**Comment** The current Board of Bar Examiners urgently needs redirection, new leadership (including a better-suited chair), and a breathe of fresh air overall. I personally received a letter from the current chair which included seriously concerning errors (remarkably poor for the head of an administrative agency charged with a great portion of duty in determining who can and cannot practice law in the state). Furthermore, current board decisions are antiquated, very much "behind the times," and very lacking in thought and pragmatism. For example, an attorney licensed to practice law in Texas (with a higher UBE passing score than New Mexico) received no assistance in trying to obtain New Mexico licensure just because of the type of law degrees he holds (including a foreign law degree and an LL.M. degree from an ABA-approved law school). This attorney passed three bar exams all on the first attempt (England, Scotland, and Texas), and was subsequently fully admitted to the Maryland and Washington state bars. A rule change would have solved this issue, but the board lacked the insight and thought necessary to produce one. This lack of thought and insight resulted in the Third Judicial District Attorney's Office being unable to hire this particular attorney as a trial attorney--despite his experience as a trial attorney for a prosecutorial office in neighboring El Paso! One should not try to act elitist and protectionist when one can't even proofread a one-page letter. Absolutely shockingly poor standard coming out of this board (an "Agency of the New Mexico Supreme Court").