

M.R. 3140

**IN THE
SUPREME COURT
OF
THE STATE OF ILLINOIS**

Order entered April 14, 2026.

(Deleted material is struck through, and new material is underscored.)

Effective July 15, 2026, Illinois Supreme Court Rules 705 and 717 are amended, as follows. Additionally, effective October 1, 2026, Rules 793 and 795 are amended, as follows. Additionally, effective January 1, 2027, Rule 711 is amended, as follows.

Amended Rule 705

Rule 705. Admission on Motion

Any person who, as determined by the Board of Admissions to the Bar, has been licensed to practice in the highest court of law in any United States state, territory, or the District of Columbia for no fewer than three years may be eligible for admission on motion on the following conditions:

- (a) The applicant meets the educational requirements of Rule 703.
- (b) The applicant meets Illinois character and fitness requirements and has been certified by the Committee on Character and Fitness.
- (c) The applicant licensed to practice law for fewer than 15 years has passed the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination in Illinois or in any jurisdiction in which it was administered.
- (d) The applicant is in good disciplinary standing before the highest court of every jurisdiction in which ever admitted and is at the time of application on active status in at least one such jurisdiction. For purposes of this rule, the term "jurisdiction" shall mean any United States state, territory, or the District of Columbia.
- (e) The applicant provides documentary evidence satisfactory to the Board that for at least three of the five years immediately preceding the application, he or she was engaged in the active, continuous, and lawful practice of law.
- (f) The applicant has paid the fee for admission on motion in accordance with Rule 706.
- (g) For purposes of this rule, the term "practice of law" shall mean:
 - (1) Practice as a sole practitioner or for a law firm, professional corporation, legal services office, legal clinic, or other entity the lawful business of which consists of the practice of law or the provision of legal services;
 - (2) Employment in a state or local court of record in a United States state, territory, or the District of Columbia as a judge, magistrate, referee or similar official, or as a judicial law clerk;

FILED

APR 14 2026

SUPREME COURT
CLERK

(3) Employment in a federal court of record in a United States state, territory, or the District of Columbia as a judge, magistrate, referee or similar official, or as a judicial law clerk;

(4) Employment as a lawyer for a corporation, agency, association, trust department, or other similar entity;

(5) Practice as a lawyer for a state or local government;

(6) Practice as a lawyer for the federal government, including legal service in the armed forces of the United States;

(7) Employment as a law professor at a law school approved by the American Bar Association; or

(8) Any combination of the above;

provided in each instance, however, that such employment is available only to licensed attorneys and that the primary duty of the position is to provide legal advice, representation, and/or services.

(h) For purposes of this rule, the term “active and continuous” shall mean the person devoted a minimum of 80 hours per month and no fewer than 1,000 hours per year to the practice of law during 36 of the 60 months immediately preceding the application.

(i) Except as provided in this paragraph (i) and paragraph (j) that follows, for purposes of this rule, the term “lawful” shall mean the practice was performed physically without Illinois and either physically within a jurisdiction in which the applicant was licensed or physically within a jurisdiction in which a lawyer not admitted to the bar is permitted to engage in such practice. An applicant relying on practice performed physically in a jurisdiction in which he or she is not admitted to the bar must establish that such practice is permitted by statute, rule, court order, or by written confirmation from the admitting or disciplinary authority of the jurisdiction in which the practice occurred. Practice falling within subparagraph (g)(3) or (g)(6) above shall be considered lawful practice even if performed physically without a jurisdiction in which the applicant is admitted. Practice falling within subparagraph (g)(7) above shall be considered lawful practice even if performed physically without a jurisdiction in which the applicant is admitted, provided that the professor does not appear in court or supervise student court appearances as part of a clinical course or otherwise. If an applicant who temporarily engaged in practice performed physically outside of the jurisdiction where the applicant was licensed demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the Board, that such practice was devoted primarily to matters governed under the law of the jurisdiction where the applicant was licensed, for the benefit of clients or entities physically located within the jurisdiction where the applicant was licensed, such practice shall be considered lawful practice for a period not to exceed two months.

(j) Practice performed within Illinois pursuant to a license under Rule 716 or Rule 717~~license~~ may be deemed lawful and counted toward eligibility for admission on motion, provided all other requirements of Rule 705 are met.

(k) Practice performed without Illinois and within the issuing jurisdiction pursuant to a limited or temporary license may be counted toward eligibility for admission on motion only if the limited or temporary license authorized practice without supervision in the highest court of law in the issuing jurisdiction.

(l) A person who has failed an Illinois bar examination administered within the preceding five

years is not eligible for admission on motion.

(m) Admission on motion is not a right. The burden is on the applicant to establish to the satisfaction of the Board that he or she meets each of the foregoing requirements.

Adopted April 3, 1989, effective immediately; amended October 25, 1989, effective immediately; amended June 12, 1992, effective July 1, 1992; amended December 6, 2001, effective immediately; amended September 30, 2002, effective immediately; amended February 6, 2004, effective immediately; amended October 1, 2010, effective January 1, 2011; amended Nov. 26, 2013, effective immediately; amended Oct. 15, 2015, eff. Jan. 1, 2016; amended Sept. 30, 2020, eff. Oct. 1, 2020; amended Apr. 14, 2026, eff. July 15, 2026.

Amended Rule 717

Rule 717. Limited Admission of Legal Service Program Lawyers

(a) **Eligibility.** A lawyer admitted to the practice of law in another state or the District of Columbia who meets the educational requirements of Rule 703 may receive a limited license to practice law in this state when the lawyer (i) has accepted an offer of employment in Illinois and has an anticipated start date pending or (ii) is employed in Illinois, for an organized legal service, public defender, or law school clinical program providing legal assistance to indigent persons.

(b) **Application Requirements.** To qualify for the license the applicant must file with the Board of Admissions to the Bar the following:

- (1) A completed application for the limited license and a completed character and fitness registration application in the form prescribed by the Board.
- (2) A certificate of good standing from the highest court of each jurisdiction of admission.
- (3) A certificate from the disciplinary authority of each jurisdiction of admission which:
 - (a) states that the applicant has not been suspended, disbarred or disciplined and that no charges of professional misconduct are pending; or
 - (b) identifies any suspensions, disbarments, or disciplinary sanctions and any pending charges.
- (4) A duly authorized and executed certification by the applicant's employer that:
 - (a) it is engaged in the practice of law for the rendering of legal services to indigent persons;
 - (b) it is duly qualified to do business under the laws of its organization and the laws of Illinois;
 - (c) it has notified the applicant that the applicant is expected to will work exclusively as an employee of said employer, barring any employer-approved nonlegal secondary employment in Illinois, noting the date employment is expected to commence; and
 - (d) it will promptly notify the Clerk of the Supreme Court of the termination of the applicant's employment, should it occur during the term of the limited license as authorized by this rule.
- (5) Such other affidavits, proofs and documentation as may be prescribed by the Board.

(6) The requisite fees in accordance with Rule 706.

(c) Character and Fitness Approval. Each applicant for a limited license under this rule must receive certification of good moral character and general fitness to practice law by the Committee on Character and Fitness in accordance with the provisions of Rule 708.

(d) Certification by the Board. In the event the Board of Admissions to the Bar shall find that the applicant meets the requirements of this rule and has received from the Committee on Character and Fitness its certification of good moral character and general fitness to practice law, the Board shall certify to the Court that such applicant is qualified for licensure.

(e) Limitation of Practice. A lawyer while in the employ of an employer described in subparagraph (a) of this rule may perform legal services in this state solely on behalf of such employer and the indigent clients represented by such employer. In criminal cases classified as felonies, during the first six months after being licensed under this rule, the lawyer may participate in the proceedings only as an assistant of a supervising member of the bar who shall be present and responsible for the conduct of the proceedings.

(f) Duration and Termination of License. The license and authorization to perform legal services under this rule shall terminate upon the earliest of the following events:

~~(1) Eighteen months after admission to practice under this rule.~~

~~(2)~~(1) The lawyer is admitted to the general practice of law under any other rule of this Court.

~~(3)~~(2) The lawyer ceases to be employed for the employer listed on his or her initial application for licensure under this rule.

~~(4)~~(3) Withdrawal of an employer's certification filed pursuant to subparagraph (b)(4) of this rule. An employer may withdraw certification at any time without cause being stated.

(g) Annual Registration and MCLE. Once the Court has conferred a limited license to perform legal services under this rule, the lawyer must register with the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission and pay the fee for active lawyers set forth in Rule 756 and fully comply with all MCLE requirements for active lawyers set forth in article VII, part C, of the Illinois Supreme Court rules for the year in which the license is conferred and for any subsequent year into which the limited license extends.

(h) Discipline. All lawyers licensed under this rule shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Court for disciplinary purposes to the same extent as all other lawyers licensed to practice law in this state.

(i) No-Credit Toward Admission on Motion. The period of time a lawyer practices law while licensed under this rule ~~may~~shall not be counted toward his or her eligibility for admission on motion, provided all other requirements of under Rule 705 are met. Up to 18 months of retroactive credit toward admission on motion may be obtained for practice while licensed under this rule prior to July 15, 2026.

Adopted February 11, 2004, effective July 1, 2004; amended Apr. 14, 2026, eff. July 15, 2026.

Amended Rule 793

Rule 793. Requirement for Newly-Admitted Attorneys

(a) Scope

Except as specified in paragraph (f), every Illinois attorney admitted to practice must complete the requirement for newly-admitted attorneys described in paragraph (c).

(b) Completion Deadline

The requirements established in paragraphs (c) and, ~~(f) and (h)~~ must be completed by the last day of the month that occurs one year after the newly-admitted attorney's admission to practice in Illinois.

(c) Elements of the Requirement for Newly-Admitted Attorneys

The requirement for newly-admitted attorneys includes three elements:

(1) A Basic Skills Course of no less than six hours covering topics such as practice techniques and procedures under the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct, client communications, use of trust accounts, attorneys' other obligations under the Court's Rules, required record keeping, professional responsibility topics (which may include professionalism, diversity and inclusion, mental health and substance abuse, and civility) and may cover other rudimentary elements of practice. The Basic Skills Course must include at least six hours approved for professional responsibility credit. Attorneys admitted to the Illinois bar on December 31, 2027, and before may complete any Basic Skills Course. Attorneys admitted to the Illinois bar on January 1, 2028, and after must complete a Basic Skills Course that includes at least 0.5 hours of instruction addressing unmet legal needs, *pro bono*, limited scope representation, or other access to justice topics. An attorney may satisfy this requirement by participating in a mentoring program approved by the Commission on Professionalism pursuant to Rule 795(d)(11); and

(2) At least nine additional hours of MCLE credit. These nine hours may include any number of hours approved for professional responsibility credit;

(3) Reporting to the MCLE Board as required by Rule 796.

(d) Exemption From Other Requirements

During this period, the newly-admitted lawyer shall be exempt from the other MCLE requirements, including Rule 794(d)(2). A newly-admitted attorney may earn carryover credit as established by Rule 794(c)(2).

(e) Initial Reporting Period

The newly admitted attorney's initial two-year reporting period for complying with the MCLE requirements contained in Rule 794 shall commence, following the deadline for the attorney to complete the newly-admitted attorney requirement, on the next July 1 of an even-numbered year for lawyers whose last names begin with a letter A through M, and on the next July 1 of an odd-numbered year for lawyers whose last names begin with a letter N through Z.

(f) Prior Practice

The newly-admitted attorney requirements of Rule 793(c) do not apply to attorneys who were

admitted in Illinois after practicing law in other states for a period of at least one year in the three years immediately preceding admission in Illinois. Instead, such attorneys must complete 15 hours of MCLE credit (including four hours of professional responsibility credits) by the deadline in paragraph (b) above. Such attorneys shall report compliance with this requirement to the MCLE Board under Rule 796. Thereafter, such attorneys will be subject to the MCLE requirements under the appropriate schedule for each attorney. Attorneys admitted in Illinois on or after January 1, 2023, must report their eligibility for this alternate prior practice requirement to the MCLE Board using the Board's online reporting system no later than the reporting deadline for the requirement.

(g) Approval

The Basic Skills Course shall be offered by CLE providers, including "in-house" program providers, authorized by the MCLE Board after its approval of the provider's planned curriculum and after approval by the Commission on Professionalism of the professional responsibility credit. Beginning January 1, 2027, all courses submitted for Basic Skills Course accreditation must include at least 0.5 hours of instruction addressing unmet legal needs, *pro bono*, limited scope representation, or other access to justice topics. Courses shall be offered throughout the state and at reasonable cost.

Adopted September 29, 2005, effective immediately; amended September 27, 2011, effective immediately; amended May 23, 2017, eff. July 1, 2017; amended June 22, 2017, eff. July 1, 2017; amended Apr. 11, 2023, eff. immediately; amended Apr. 14, 2026, eff. Oct. 1, 2026.

Amended Rule 795

Rule 795. Accreditation Standards and Hours

(a) Standards

Eligible CLE courses and activities shall satisfy the following standards:

(1) The course or activity must have significant intellectual, educational or practical content, and its primary objective must be to increase each participant's professional competence as an attorney.

(2) The course or activity must deal primarily with matters related to the practice of law.

(3) The course or activity must be offered by a provider having substantial, recent experience in offering CLE or demonstrated ability to organize and effectively present CLE. Demonstrated ability arises partly from the extent to which individuals with legal training or educational experience are involved in the planning, instruction and supervision of the activity.

(4) The course or activity itself must be conducted by an individual or group qualified by practical or academic experience. The course or activity, including the named advertised participants, must be conducted substantially as planned, subject to emergency withdrawals and alterations.

(5) Thorough, high quality, readable and carefully prepared written materials should be made available to all participants at or before the time the course is presented, unless the absence of such materials is recognized as reasonable and approved by the Board.

(6) Traditional CLE courses or activities shall be conducted in a physical setting conducive to learning and free of interruptions from telephone calls, electronic communications, and other office or personal matters. The activity must be open to observation, without charge, by members of the Board, its staff, or their designees.

(7) The course or activity may be presented using one or more of these delivery methods as approved by the Board: in person or by live or recorded technology methods. Each delivery method must have interactivity as a key component, including the opportunity for participants to ask questions and have them answered by the course faculty or other qualified commentator.

(8) The course or activity must consist of not less than one-half hour of actual instruction, unless the Board determines that a specific program of less than one-half hour warrants accreditation.

(9) For each course or activity, the provider shall submit to the MCLE Board the name, ARDC registration number, and actual CLE hours, including professional responsibility hours, earned by each Illinois-licensed attorney attending and teaching its course or activity in the manner and at the time specified by the Board. A list of the names of all participants for each course or activity shall be maintained by the provider for a period of at least three years. The provider shall issue a certificate, in written or electronic form, to each participant evincing his or her attendance or teaching. Such lists and certificates shall state the actual number of CLE hours, including professional responsibility hours, earned by each attorney at that course or activity. Teaching credit is calculated pursuant to paragraph (d)(5).

(b) Accredited CLE Provider

The Board may extend presumptive approval to a provider for all of the CLE courses or activities presented by that provider each year that conform to paragraph (a)'s Standards (1) through (9), upon written application to be an Accredited Continuing Legal Education Provider ("Accredited CLE Provider"). Such accreditation shall constitute prior approval of all CLE courses offered by such providers. However, the Board may withhold accreditation or limit hours for any course found not to meet the standards, and the Board may revoke accreditation for any organization which is found not to comply with standards. The Board shall assess an annual fee, over and above the fees assessed to the provider for each course, for the privilege of being an "Accredited CLE Provider." An Accredited CLE Provider shall submit an annual report to the Board in the manner and at the time specified by the Board.

(c) Accreditation of Individual Courses or Activities

(1) Any provider not included in paragraph (b) desiring advance accreditation of an individual course or other activity shall apply to the Board by submitting a required application form, the course advance accreditation fee set by the Board, and supporting documentation no less than 45 days prior to the date for which the course or activity is scheduled. Documentation shall include a statement of the provider's intention to comply with the accreditation standards of this Rule, the written materials distributed or to be distributed to participants at the course or activity, if available, or a detailed outline of the proposed course or activity and list of instructors, and such further information as the Board shall request. The Board staff will advise the applicant in writing within 30 days of the receipt of the completed application of its approval or disapproval.

(2) Providers denied approval of a course or activity shall promptly provide written notice of the Board's denial to all attorneys who requested Illinois MCLE credit for the course. Providers denied approval of a course or activity or individual attorneys who have attended such course or activity may request reconsideration of the Board's initial decision by filing a form approved by the Board no later than 30 days after the Board's initial decision. The Director shall consider the request within 30 days of its receipt, and promptly notify the provider and/or the individual attorney. If the Director denies the request, the provider shall have 30 days from the date of that denial to submit an appeal to the Board for consideration at the next scheduled Board meeting. Submission of a request for reconsideration or an appeal does not stay any MCLE submission deadlines or fee payments.

(3) Providers who do not seek prior approval of their course or activity may apply for approval for the course or activity after its presentation by submitting an application provided by MCLE staff, the supporting documentation described above, and the accreditation fee set by the Board.

(4) For each course or activity, the provider shall submit to the MCLE Board the name, ARDC registration number, and actual CLE hours, including professional responsibility hours, earned by each Illinois-licensed attorney attending or teaching its course or activity in the manner and at the time specified by the Board. A list of the names of participants shall be maintained by the provider for a period of three years. The provider shall issue a certificate, in written or electronic form, to each participant evincing his or her attendance or teaching. Such lists and certificates shall state the actual number of CLE hours, including professional responsibility hours, earned by each attorney at that course or activity. Teaching credit is calculated pursuant to paragraph (d)(5).

(5) An attorney may submit an individual out-of-state CLE course for Illinois CLE attendance or teaching credit if the following provisions are satisfied: (i) the attorney participated in the course either in person or via live audio or video conference; (ii) (a) for a course held in person in a state with a comparable MCLE requirement, the course must be approved for MCLE credit by that state; or (b) for a course held in person in a state or the District of Columbia without a comparable MCLE requirement, the course must be approved for MCLE credit by at least one other state with a comparable MCLE requirement; or (c) for a course attended by live audio or video conference, the course must be approved for MCLE credit by at least one other state with a comparable MCLE requirement; and (iii) the course provider has chosen not to seek accreditation of the course for Illinois MCLE credit. Attendance and teaching credit earned from an out-of-state course is based on Illinois's 60-minute credit hour and teaching credit is calculated pursuant to paragraph (d)(5). The attorney must submit the out-of-state CLE course using the Board's online submission process and pay the fee for accreditation of the course set by the MCLE Board fee schedule no later than the reporting deadline for the Illinois reporting period in which the CLE course took place.

(d) Nontraditional Courses or Activities

In addition to traditional CLE courses, the following courses or activities will receive CLE credit:

- (1) "In-House" Programs. Attendance at "in-house" seminars, courses, lectures or other

CLE activity presented by law firms, corporate legal departments, governmental agencies or similar entities, either individually or in cooperation with other such entities, subject to the following conditions:

(i) The CLE course or activity must meet the rules and regulations for any other CLE course or activity, as applicable, including submitting applications, attendance, and fees due under the fee schedule.

(ii) No credit will be afforded for discussions relating to the handling of specific cases, or issues relating to the management of a specific law firm, corporate law department, governmental agency or similar entity.

(2) Law School Courses. Attendance at J.D. or graduate level law courses offered by American Bar Association (“ABA”) accredited law schools, subject to the following conditions:

(i) Credit ordinarily is given only for courses taken after admission to practice in Illinois, but the Board may approve giving credit for courses taken prior to admission to practice in Illinois if giving credit will advance CLE objectives.

(ii) Credit towards MCLE requirements shall be for the actual number of class hours attended, but the maximum number of credits that may be earned during any two-year reporting period by attending courses offered by ABA accredited law schools shall be the minimum number of CLE hours required by Rule s 794(a) and (d).

(iii) The attorney must comply with registration procedures of the law school, including the payment of tuition.

(iv) The course need not be taken for law school credit towards a degree; auditing a course is permitted. However, the attorney must comply with all law school rules for attendance, participation and examination, if any, to receive CLE credit.

(v) The law school shall give each attorney a written certification evincing that the attorney has complied with requirements for the course and attended sufficient classes to justify the awarding of course credit if the attorney were taking the course for credit.

(vi) The attorney must report the credit earned from this activity to the MCLE Board using the Board’s online submission process no later than the reporting deadline for the reporting period in which the credit was earned.

(3) Bar Association Meetings. Attendance or teaching at bar association or professional organization meetings at which substantive law, matters of practice, professionalism, diversity and inclusion, mental health and substance abuse, civility, or legal ethics are discussed, in a setting conducive to learning and free of interruptions and subject to the requirements for CLE credit defined in paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(2) above. Meetings may be any length, but an attorney may earn no more than one hour of MCLE credit from a live CLE-eligible presentation at any such meeting. To report attendance or teaching, the bar association or professional organization shall submit to the MCLE Board the meeting information, as well as the attorney names, ARDC registration numbers, and actual CLE hours, including professional responsibility hours, earned by each Illinois-licensed attorney, in the manner and at the time specified by the Board. The bar association or professional organization shall maintain a list

of the names of all attendees at each meeting for a period of three years and shall issue a certificate, in written or electronic form, to each participant evincing his or her attendance or teaching. Such lists and certificates shall state the actual number of CLE hours, including professional responsibility hours, earned by each attorney at that meeting. Teaching credit is calculated pursuant to paragraph (d)(5).

(4) Cross-Disciplinary Programs. Attendance at courses or activities that cross academic lines, such as accounting-tax seminars or medical-legal seminars, may be considered by the Board for full or partial credit. Purely nonlegal subjects, such as personal financial planning, shall not be counted towards CLE credit. Any mixed-audience courses or activities may receive credit only for sessions deemed appropriate for CLE purposes.

(5) Teaching Continuing Legal Education Courses. Teaching at CLE courses or activities during the two-year reporting term, subject to the following:

(i) Credit may be earned for teaching in an approved CLE course or activity. Presentations shall be counted at the full hour or fraction thereof for the initial presentation; a repeat presentation of the same material shall be counted at one-half; no further hours may be earned for additional presentations of the same material.

(ii) Time spent in preparation for a presentation at an approved CLE activity shall be counted at six times the actual presentation time. For a course or segment of a course with more than one teacher, actual presentation time is first divided equally among the teachers.

(iii) An attorney must report to the Board, using the Board's online verification process, the number of times the attorney presented the material taught at an approved CLE course or bar association meeting reported to the Board under paragraphs (a)(9) and (d)(3) above. The attorney must report this information to the MCLE Board no later than the reporting deadline for the reporting period in which the credit was earned.

(6) Part-Time Teaching of Law Courses. Teaching at an ABA-accredited law school, or teaching a law course at a university, college, or community college, subject to the following:

(i) Teaching credit may be earned for teaching law courses offered for credit toward a degree at a law school accredited by the ABA, but only by lawyers who are not employed full-time by a law school, university, college, or community college. Those full-time teachers at a law school, university, college, or community college who choose to maintain their licenses to practice law are fully subject to the MCLE requirements established herein, and may not earn any credits by their ordinary teaching assignments. Presentations shall be counted at the full hour or fraction thereof for the initial presentation; a repeat presentation of the same material shall be counted at one-half; no further hours may be earned for additional presentations of the same material.

Teaching credit may be earned by appearing as a guest instructor, moderator, or participant in a law school class for a presentation which meets the overall guidelines for CLE courses or activities, as well as for serving as a judge at a law school training simulation, including but not limited to moot court arguments, mock trials, mock transactional exercises, and mock arbitrations/mediations.

Time spent in preparation for an eligible law school activity shall be counted at three times the actual presentation time. For an eligible law school activity with more than one

teacher or judge, actual presentation time is first divided equally among the teachers or judges. The attorney must report the credit earned from this activity to the MCLE Board using the Board's online submission process no later than the reporting deadline for the reporting period in which the credit was earned.

Appearing as a guest speaker before a law school assembly or group shall not count toward CLE credit.

(ii) Teaching credit may be earned for teaching law courses at a university, college, or community college by lawyers who are not full-time teachers if the teaching involves significant intellectual, educational or practical content, such as a civil procedure course taught to paralegal students or a commercial law course taught to business students.

Presentations shall be counted at the full hour or fraction thereof for the initial presentation; a repeat presentation of the same material shall be counted at one-half; no further hours may be earned for additional presentations of the same material. For a course or segment of a course with more than one teacher, actual presentation time is divided equally among the teachers. The attorney must report the credit earned from this activity to the MCLE Board using the Board's online submission process no later than the reporting deadline for the reporting period in which the credit was earned.

(7) Legal Scholarship. Writing law books and law review articles, subject to the following:

(i) An attorney may earn credit for legal textbooks, casebooks, treatises and other scholarly legal books written by the attorney that are published during the two-year reporting period.

(ii) An attorney may earn credit for writing law-related articles in responsible legal journals or other legal sources, published during the two-year reporting period, that deal primarily with matters related to the practice of law, professionalism, diversity and inclusion, mental illness and addiction issues, civility, or ethical obligations of attorneys. Republication of any article shall receive no additional CLE credits unless the author made substantial revisions or additions.

(iii) An attorney may earn credit towards MCLE requirements for the actual number of hours spent researching and writing, but the maximum number of credits that may be earned during any two-year reporting period on a single publication shall be one-half the minimum number of CLE hours required by Rule 794(a) and (d). Credit is accrued when the eligible book or article is published, regardless of whether the work in question was performed in the then-current two-year reporting period. To receive CLE credit, the attorney shall maintain contemporaneous records evincing the number of hours spent on a publication.

(iv) The attorney must report the credit earned from this activity to the MCLE Board using the Board's online submission process no later than the reporting deadline for the reporting period in which the credit was accrued.

(8) Pro Bono Training. Attendance at courses or activities designed to train lawyers who have agreed to provide pro bono services shall earn CLE credit to the same extent as other courses and seminars.

(9) Bar Review Courses. Attendance at bar review courses before admission to the Illinois Bar shall not be used for CLE credit.

(10) Reading Legal Materials. No credit shall be earned by reading advance sheets, newspapers, law reviews, books, cases, statutes, newsletters or other such sources.

(11) Activity of Lawyer-to-Lawyer Mentoring. Lawyers completing a comprehensive year-long structured mentoring program, as either a mentor or mentee, may earn six hours of credit equal to the minimum professional responsibility credit (including one hour of diversity and inclusion credit and one hour of mental health and substance abuse credit)~~six hours~~ during the two-year reporting period of completion, provided that the mentoring plan is preapproved by the Commission on Professionalism, the completion is attested to by both mentor and mentee, and both the mentor and mentee meet the eligibility requirements herein. For attorneys admitted to the Illinois bar on January 1, 2028, or after, the mentoring program must include at least 0.5 hours of content addressing unmet legal needs, pro bono, limited scope representation, or other access to justice topics for participation to satisfy the Rule 793(c)(1) newly admitted attorney Basic Skills Course requirement. The Commission on Professionalism shall report credit earned from participation in this mentoring program to the MCLE Board.

(i) Eligibility Requirements:

(A) The mentor has been in practice for a minimum of five years, and the mentee completes the program within the first five years of his or her practice; or

(B) The mentor and mentee are approved to participate in the ARDC Mentoring Program imposed as a condition of disciplinary sanction or as a condition of a deferral program.

(12) Service on Certain Boards, Commissions, Committees, or Task Forces of the Supreme Court of Illinois. An attorney appointed by the Court to a qualifying Court entity earns one hour of MCLE credit by attending a qualifying meeting of their board, commission, committee, or task force. "A qualifying meeting" is any meeting of that board, commission, committee, or task force, as well as any subcommittee, working group or another subgroup that the Court entity created to advance its work. Credit for this attendance is limited to 12 hours in each two-year reporting period. There is no carryover of these credits to another two-year reporting period. The attorney must report the credit earned from this activity to the MCLE Board using the Board's online submission process no later than the reporting deadline for the reporting period in which the credit was earned.

(13) Service as Elected or Appointed Member of the Illinois General Assembly. An attorney elected or appointed to the Illinois General Assembly earns three hours of general MCLE credit by attending at least one day of one qualifying legislative session. A "qualifying legislative session" is any official regular, special, or veto session of the Illinois General Assembly for which the member is present in the Illinois House of Representatives or Illinois Senate chambers or any official committee or subcommittee meeting of the Illinois House of Representatives or Illinois Senate for which the representative or senator is present. Credit for this attendance is limited to 3 hours for each qualifying legislative session and is capped at 12 hours in each two-year reporting period. There is no carryover of these credits to another two-

year reporting period and no professional responsibility credit is available. The attorney must report the credit earned from this activity to the MCLE Board using the Board's online submission process no later than the reporting deadline for the reporting period in which the attorney earned the credit. Newly admitted attorneys do not earn Illinois MCLE credit under this provision.

(14) Participation in Illinois Free Legal Answers During the Period from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027

(i) An attorney may earn 1 credit hour for every 2 hours of participation in Illinois Free Legal Answers, up to 5 credits per reporting period, under Rule 794(a).

(ii) To report participation, the Public Interest Law Initiative, as administrator of Illinois Free Legal Answers, shall submit a report, monthly, to the MCLE Board with the attorney names, ARDC registration numbers, and actual CLE hours earned by each Illinois-licensed attorney. Said report shall be prepared no later than June 30 of each calendar year in the manner specified by the Board. The Public Interest Law Initiative shall maintain a list of the names of all those who participated in Illinois Free Legal Answers and shall issue a certificate, in written or electronic form, to each participant, as credit hours are earned, evincing his or her participation. The Public Interest Law Initiative shall maintain the list of participants for a period of three years after completion of the credit hours earned. Such certificates and lists shall state the actual number of CLE hours earned by each participating attorney.

(e) Credit Hour Guidelines

Hours of CLE credit will be determined under the following guidelines:

(1) Sixty minutes shall equal one hour of credit. Partial credit shall be earned for qualified activities of less than 60 minutes duration.

(2) The following are not counted for credit: (i) coffee breaks; (ii) introductory and closing remarks; (iii) keynote speeches; (iv) lunches and dinners; (v) other breaks; and (vi) business meetings.

(3) Question and answer periods are counted toward credit.

(4) Lectures or panel discussions occurring during breakfast, luncheon, or dinner sessions of bar association committees may be awarded credit.

(5) Credits are determined by the following formula: Total minutes of approved activity *minus* minutes for breaks (as described in paragraph (e)(2)) *divided by* 60 *equals* maximum CLE credit allowed.

(6) Credits merely reflect the maximum that may be earned. Only actual attendance or participation earns credit.

(f) Financial Hardship Policy

The provider shall have available a financial hardship policy for attorneys who wish to attend its courses, but for whom the cost of such courses would be a financial hardship. Such policy may be in the form of scholarships, waivers of course fees, reduced course fees, or discounts. Upon request by the Board, the provider must produce the detailed financial hardship policy. The Board may require, on good cause shown, a provider to set aside without cost, or at reduced cost, a

reasonable number of places in the course for those attorneys determined by the Board to have good cause to attend the course for reduced or no cost.

Adopted September 29, 2005, effective immediately; amended October 4, 2007, effective immediately; amended October 12, 2010, effective immediately; amended September 27, 2011; effective immediately; amended Feb. 6, 2013, eff. immediately; amended Nov. 18, 2016, eff. immediately; amended May 23, 2017, eff. July 1, 2017; amended Jan. 29, 2019, eff. July 1, 2019; amended Jan. 24, 2020, eff. immediately; amended May 8, 2020, eff. July 1, 2020; amended Dec. 17, 2021, eff. Jan. 1, 2022; amended Apr. 11, 2023, eff. immediately; amended Sept. 20, 2024, eff. Jan. 1, 2025; amended Apr. 1, 2025, eff. July 1, 2025; amended Apr. 14, 2026, eff. Oct. 1, 2026.

Amended Rule 711

Rule 711. Representation by Supervised Law Students or Law School Graduates

(a) Eligibility.

~~(1) A student enrolled in a law school approved by the American Bar Association may be eligible to receive a temporary law license to perform the services described in paragraph (c) of this rule, if the student dean of the law school certifies that the student satisfies the following requirements:~~

~~(i)(1) The student must have~~Has received credit for work representing at least one-half of the total hourly credits required for graduation from the law school.

~~(ii)(2) The student must be~~Is in good academic standing and be eligible under the school's criteria to undertake the activities authorized herein.

~~(2) A graduate of a law school approved by the American Bar Association may be eligible to receive a temporary law license, or to retain a temporary law license issued prior to graduation, to perform the services described in paragraph (c) of this rule, if the graduate: who~~

~~(i) has not yet had an opportunity to take the first Illinois bar examination administered by the Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar (IBAB) following the student's graduation from law school or, in lieu of the Illinois bar examination, has not yet had an opportunity to take the first administration of the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) in another jurisdiction or the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE),~~

~~(ii) has taken the first administration of the UBE in Illinois or in another jurisdiction following the student's graduation from law school and failed to attain a passing score as required by IBAB, but has not yet had an opportunity to take the second administration of the UBE in Illinois or in another jurisdiction following the student's graduation from law school, or the MPRE,~~

~~(iii)(ii) has taken the examinations but not yet received notification of the results of either examination, or~~

~~(iv)(iii) has taken and passed both examinations or, in lieu of the Illinois bar examination has attained a passing score on the UBE in another jurisdiction that is eligible to be transferred for admission under Supreme Court Rule 704A, but has not yet been sworn as a member of the Illinois bar, may, if the dean of that law school has no objection, be~~

~~eligible to receive a temporary law license to perform the services described in paragraph (e) of this rule.~~

A law graduate who has been denied admission to the bar in Illinois or another jurisdiction on a ground related to character and fitness, or as to whom hearings are pending in Illinois or another jurisdiction on a ground related to character and fitness, is not eligible for a temporary law license. For purposes of this rule, a law school graduate is defined as any individual not yet licensed to practice law in any jurisdiction.

(b) Entities/Agencies Through Which Services Must Be Performed. The services authorized by this rule may only be ~~performed~~~~carried on~~ in the course of the student's or graduate's paid or unpaid work with one or more of the following entities, including a private firm contracted to perform the services of an entity listed in (1)-(4) below provided that services performed under this Rule are limited to the contract organizations or programs:

- (1) a legal aid bureau, legal assistance program, organization, or clinic chartered by the State of Illinois or approved by a law school approved by the American Bar Association;
- (2) the office of the public defender;
- (3) an office, agency, or department of the State or any of its subdivisions; ~~or~~
- (4) an office, agency, or department of the United States or any of its subdivisions; ~~or~~
- (5) for law graduates only, during the period January 1, 2027, to December 31, 2029, a private law firm with a practice in the 1st, 13th, 15th, or 23rd Judicial Circuits, and any other judicial circuits within the state as the Supreme Court may designate from time to time, provided that services performed under this Rule are limited to these circuits.

(c) Services Permitted. Under the supervision of an active member of the bar of this State, and with the written consent of the person on whose behalf the law student or graduate is acting, a law student or graduate licensed under this Rule may render the following services:

- (1) Counsel and advise clients, negotiate in the settlement of claims, represent clients in mediation and other nonlitigation matters, and engage in the preparation and drafting of legal instruments.
- (2) Appear in the trial courts, courts of review and administrative tribunals of this State, including court-annexed arbitration and mediation, subject to the following qualifications:
 - (i) Written consent to representation of the person on whose behalf the law student or graduate is acting shall be filed in the case and brought to the attention of the judge or presiding officer.
 - (ii) Appearances, pleadings, motions, and other documents to be filed with the court may be prepared by the student or graduate and may be signed by him/her with the accompanying designation "Law Student" or "Law Graduate" but must also be signed by the supervising member of the bar.
 - (iii) In criminal cases, in which the penalty may be imprisonment, in proceedings challenging sentences of imprisonment, and in civil or criminal contempt proceedings, the student or graduate may participate in pretrial, trial, and posttrial proceedings as an assistant of the supervising member of the bar, who shall be present and responsible for the conduct of the proceedings.

(iv) In all other civil and criminal cases in the trial courts or administrative tribunals, the student or graduate may conduct all pretrial, trial, and posttrial proceedings, and the supervising member of the bar need not be present.

(v) In matters before courts of review, the law student or graduate may prepare briefs, excerpts from the record, and other documents filed in courts of review of the State, which may set forth the name of the student or graduate with the accompanying designation "Law Student" or "Law Graduate" but must be filed in the name of the supervising member of the bar. Upon motion by the supervising member of the bar, the law student or law graduate may request authorization to argue the matter before the court of review. If the law student or law graduate is permitted to argue, the supervising member of the bar must be present and responsible for the conduct of the hearing.

(3) Where permitted, appear in the trial courts, courts of review, and administrative tribunals of the United States located in Illinois, subject to the tribunal's local rules on admission to practice by law students and law school graduates.

(d) Compensation. A student or graduate rendering services authorized by this rule shall not request or accept any compensation from the person for whom the student or graduate renders the services, but may receive compensation from an ~~entity~~agency described in paragraph (b).

(e) Application for Licensure; Expiration and Termination of License.

(1) A law student or law school graduate who wishes to be licensed under this rule shall apply to the Administrative Director using the application form provided by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, which shall include verification by the dean of the applicant's law school and the applicant's supervising attorney. The Administrative Director shall, upon review and approval of the completed application of an eligible student or graduate, issue the temporary license. Unless otherwise provided by the Administrative Director, upon the issuance of a temporary license, the law student/graduate may render the services described in paragraph (c) of this rule for the employer identified on the application until the license expires or is terminated. No services that are permitted under paragraph (c) shall be performed prior to the issuance of a temporary license. A law student or graduate licensed under this rule must notify the Administrative Director in advance, using the form provided by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, of any changes in the student's or graduate's employer or supervising attorney.

(2) Unless otherwise provided by the Administrative Director for good cause shown, or unless sooner withdrawn or terminated, a temporary law license issued pursuant to this Rule shall remain in effect until the expiration of ~~30~~24 months after it is issued, or until the ~~second~~first Illinois bar admission ceremony following the student's graduation, whichever is earlier.

(3) The certification of eligibility made by the dean of the student's or graduate's law school may be withdrawn by the dean at any time, without prior notice, hearing, or showing of cause, by the mailing of a notice to that effect to the Administrative Director and copies of the notice to the student/graduate and to the student's/graduate's supervising attorney.

(4) A temporary law license issued pursuant to this Rule may be terminated by this court at any time without prior notice, hearing, or showing of cause. Notice of the termination may

be filed with the Administrative Director, who shall notify the student and the entities/agencies to which the student had been assigned.

Amended effective May 27, 1969; amended July 1, 1985, effective August 1, 1985; amended July 3, 1986, effective August 1, 1986; amended June 19, 1989, effective August 1, 1989; amended June 12, 1992, effective July 1, 1992; amended October 10, 2001, effective immediately; amended December 5, 2003, effective immediately; amended February 10, 2006, effective immediately; amended June 18, 2013, eff. July 1, 2013; amended June 8, 2016, eff. immediately; amended June 22, 2017, eff. July 1, 2017; amended Aug. 25, 2022, eff. immediately; amended Apr. 19, 2023, eff. immediately; amended Apr. 14, 2026, eff. Jan. 1, 2027.

Committee Comments

(April 14, 2026)

This rule was amended effective January 1, 2027, to help address unmet legal needs, particularly in rural communities, by extending the length of time a law graduate may qualify for a 711 license following graduation from law school by allowing a law graduate who does not pass the first bar examination administered following graduation to retain his or her 711 license through the next administered bar examination. The amendments also allow a law graduate to sit for either the Illinois bar examination or the Uniform Bar Examination in another jurisdiction. On a pilot basis, the amendment also expands 711 licenses to law graduates affiliated with a private firm and practicing in the 1st, 13th, 15th, or 23rd Judicial Circuits.

(June 18, 2013)

This rule was amended effective July 1, 2013, to clarify that students and law graduates may perform nonlitigation legal services under this rule. Nothing in this rule should be construed to require law students or law graduates to be certified under this rule for work, including but not limited to transactional, pretrial, and policy work, that properly may be performed by a law student or other nonlawyer under Rule 5.3 of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct.

~~Committee Comments~~

~~(July 1, 1985)~~

~~This rule was amended, effective August 1, 1985, to allow the Administrative Director of the Illinois Courts to allow certain graduates of approved law schools to perform services under this rule pending their first opportunity to sit for the bar examination and to allow the Administrative Director, upon good cause shown, to extend the termination date of a certificate beyond the period prescribed by the rule. "Good cause shown" would ordinarily be limited to evidence that the licensee was unable to sit for the first bar examination offered following his graduation because of illness, a death in his family, military obligation, etc.~~