

## Rule Change Opens New Avenue for Admission-on-Motion in Arizona

by Sara J. Agne, Snell & Wilmer | December 31, 2013

A recent change to the Arizona Supreme Court's admission-on-motion rule opened a new pathway for admission for applicants who passed bar examinations in non-reciprocal jurisdictions. The amendments eliminated an arbitrary distinction about place-of-bar-examination and now treat admission-on-motion applicants more equally.

Though Arizona has 33 reciprocal jurisdictions, comprising 32 states and the District of Columbia, applicants who passed their bar examination in non-reciprocal jurisdictions were previously barred from admission on motion, even if they met all other qualifications. The rule amendments provide a separate avenue for admission on motion for those who passed their bar exam in a non-reciprocal jurisdiction but have the requisite record of active practice in a reciprocal jurisdiction or jurisdictions.

This includes applicants who passed their bar examination in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana, Maryland, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau,

Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. So long as those applicants were admitted to and engaged in the active practice of law in a reciprocal jurisdiction or jurisdictions for five of the seven years immediately preceding the date upon which their application was filed, and meet all other requirements, they are now eligible to apply for admission on motion. Service as corporate counsel in Arizona while registered pursuant to Rule 38(h) of the Supreme Court rules counts toward the active practice requirement of the new rule.

The rule change brings Arizona's admission-on-motion rule more in line with the current practice in other states. The Arizona State Bar Board of Governors voted in support of the rule change, so long as it did not endanger reciprocity with any of Arizona's current reciprocal jurisdictions. The Arizona Supreme Court adopted the change and the final amendments took effect October 1, 2013. The change appears in part (ii) of Arizona Supreme Court Rule 34(f)(1)(A). For more on admission on motion in Arizona, visit <http://www.azcourts.gov/cld/AttorneyAdmissions/AdmissiononMotion.aspx>.



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