



**NEW PROCEDURES REGARDING THE ELIGIBILITY OF FOREIGN EDUCATED
APPLICANTS TO QUALIFY FOR THE CALIFORNIA BAR EXAMINATION AND ADMISSION
TO PRACTICE LAW IN CALIFORNIA**

After a period of public comment and consideration of the comments that were received, amendments to Rule II of the *Rules Regulating Admission to Practice Law in California (Rules)* relative to the eligibility of foreign-educated applicants to take the California Bar Examination were recently adopted. The new rule became effective with applications filed in connection with the February 2008 administration of the California Bar Examination and the June 2008 administration of the First-Year Law Students' Examination.

New policies and procedures for implementation of the new rule have been approved. If you are interested in pursuing admission to practice law in California, the bulletins and instructions you should read and forms that you need to complete are noted below. Any foreign-educated applicant who previously sought and received an evaluation regarding their eligibility from the Office of Admissions that conflicts with the new policy, i.e., they were required to complete one additional year of law study without reference to any specific courses, will be governed by the former or current policy, whichever is most favorable to their situation.

If you are currently enrolled in an ABA law school LL.M. program and you intended to file an application for the July 2008 administration of the California Bar Examination because you believe you would have been found qualified to take it under previous Committee of Bar Examiners' (Committee) policies, and feel you are negatively affected by the new policy, you may submit a petition seeking relief from the new policy. Petitions, which must be signed under penalty of perjury, should be forwarded to the Eligibility Section, Office of Admissions, The State Bar of California, 1149 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90015-2299.

The new rule and policies do not affect foreign attorneys who are admitted to the active practice of law in a foreign country in good standing, as they are able to qualify to take the California Bar Examination without having to complete any additional legal education.

Refer to:

- Bulletin on [Qualification for Admission to Practice Law in California by Law Students Receiving Their Legal Education Outside the United States](#)
- [Guidelines for Implementation of Section 3\(a\), Rule II of the Rules Regulating Admission to Practice Law in California](#)
- [Instructions for Registration as a Foreign-Educated General Applicant Not Admitted to the Practice of Law in Any United States or Foreign Jurisdiction](#)
- [Registration as a Foreign-Educated General Applicant Not Admitted to the Practice of Law in Any United States or Foreign Jurisdiction](#) Form
- [Foreign Law Study Evaluation Summary Form](#)
- List of [Credential Evaluation Services Approved by the Committee of Bar Examiners](#)