

# Supreme Court of Texas

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Misc. Docket No. 25-9070

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## **Preliminary Approval of Amendments to Rule 1 of the Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Texas**

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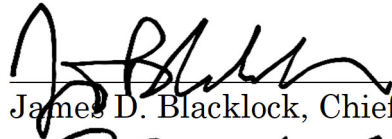
### **ORDERED** that:

1. On April 4, 2025, the Court invited comments on the law school accreditation component of the Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Texas. Specifically, the Court requested feedback on:
  - a. whether to reduce or end the Rules' reliance on the American Bar Association; and
  - b. alternatives the Court should consider.
2. After further consideration of the matter, including review of the many helpful comments received, the Court is of the tentative opinion that the ABA should no longer have the final say on whether a law school's graduates are eligible to sit for the Texas bar exam and become licensed to practice law in Texas.
3. The Court therefore proposes amendments to Rule 1 of the Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Texas.
4. The Court invites public comments on the proposed amendments. Comments should be submitted in writing to [rulescomments@txcourts.gov](mailto:rulescomments@txcourts.gov) by December 1, 2025.
5. The Court will issue an order finalizing the amendments after the close of the comment period. The Court expects the amendments to take effect on January 1, 2026.
6. Commenters and other interested parties are advised that the Court, in re-asserting its authority over the approval of law schools:

- a. intends to preserve the portability of Texas law-school degrees into other states and to preserve the portability of out-of-state law-school degrees into Texas;
  - b. does not intend to impose additional accreditation, compliance, or administrative burdens on currently approved law schools, which need not take any additional action in order to remain approved law schools in Texas;
  - c. intends to provide stability, certainty, and flexibility to currently approved law schools by guaranteeing ongoing approval to schools that satisfy a set of simple, objective, and ideologically neutral criteria (such as bar exam passage rate) using metrics no more onerous than those currently required by the ABA;
  - d. will not consider the fact that a law school loses ABA accreditation to be sufficient grounds for removal of the school from Texas's list of approved schools;
  - e. intends to develop, in consultation with the Texas Board of Law Examiners, a deliberative approach to requests from law schools not currently accredited by the ABA that wish to be added to Texas's list;
  - f. does not anticipate immediate changes to the current list of approved law schools; and
  - g. may consider, in the future, returning to greater reliance on a multi-state accrediting entity other than the ABA should a suitable entity become available.
7. The Texas Board of Law Examiners is directed to publish on its website the initial list of law schools approved by the Court as satisfying the law study requirements for licensure. That list, which is attached to this order, includes all law schools that are currently approved under the Court's existing rules.
8. The Clerk is directed to:
- a. file a copy of this order with the Secretary of State;
  - b. cause a copy of this order to be mailed to each registered member of the State Bar of Texas by publication in the *Texas Bar Journal*;
  - c. send a copy of this order to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and each elected member of the Legislature; and

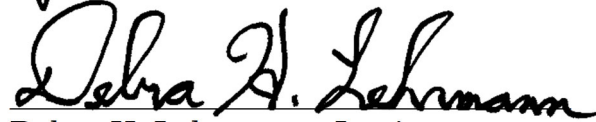
- d. submit a copy of this order for publication in the *Texas Register*.

Date: September 26, 2025.



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James D. Blacklock, Chief Justice



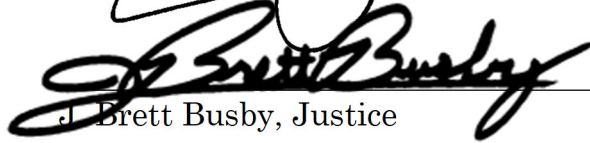
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Debra H. Lehrmann, Justice



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John P. Devine, Justice



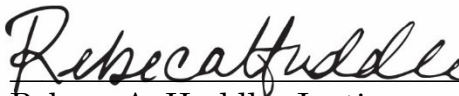
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J. Brett Busby, Justice



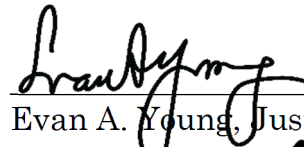
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Jane N. Bland, Justice



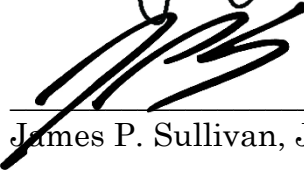
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Rebeca A. Huddle, Justice



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Evan A. Young, Justice



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James P. Sullivan, Justice

**Rule 1**  
**Definitions and General Provisions**

(a) Frequently used terms are defined as follows:

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(4) “Approved law school” means a law school approved by the ~~American Bar Association~~Supreme Court.

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# Supreme Court of Texas

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## Approved Law Schools

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The below law schools are approved by the Court as satisfying the law study requirements for admission to the Texas Bar:

Akron	Chicago
Alabama	Chicago-Kent
Albany	Cincinnati
American	City University of New York
Appalachian	Cleveland State
Arizona	Colorado
Arizona State	Columbia
Arkansas – Fayetteville	Connecticut
Arkansas – Little Rock	Cooley Law School
Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School	Cornell
Ave Maria School of Law	Creighton
Baltimore	Dayton
Barry University	Denver
Baylor	DePaul
Belmont University	Detroit Mercy
Boston College	District of Columbia
Boston University	Drake
Brigham Young	Drexel
Brooklyn	Duke
Buffalo	Duquesne
California – Berkeley	Elon
California – Davis	Emory
California – San Francisco	Faulkner
California – Irvine	Florida
California – Los Angeles	Florida A&M
California Western	Florida International
Campbell	Florida State
Capital	Fordham
Case Western Reserve	George Mason
Catholic University of America	Georgetown
Chapman	George Washington
Charleston	Georgia

Georgia State  
Golden Gate  
Gonzaga  
Harvard  
Hawaii  
Hofstra  
Houston  
Howard  
Idaho  
Illinois Chicago  
Illinois  
Indiana University – Bloomington  
Indiana University – Indianapolis  
Inter American  
Iowa  
Jacksonville  
Judge Advocate General’s School  
Kansas  
Kentucky  
Lewis and Clark  
Liberty  
Lincoln Memorial  
Louisiana State  
Louisville  
Loyola – Chicago  
Loyola – Los Angeles  
Loyola – New Orleans  
Maine  
Marquette  
Maryland  
Massachusetts  
McGeorge  
Memphis  
Mercer  
Miami  
Michigan State  
Michigan  
Minnesota  
Mississippi College  
Mississippi  
Missouri  
Missouri – Kansas City  
Mitchell Hamline  
Montana

Nebraska  
Nevada  
New England Law – Boston  
New Hampshire  
New Mexico  
New York Law School  
New York University  
North Carolina  
North Carolina Central  
North Dakota  
Northeastern  
Northern Illinois  
Northern Kentucky  
Northwestern  
Notre Dame  
Nova Southeastern  
Ohio Northern  
The Ohio State  
Oklahoma  
Oklahoma City  
Oregon  
Pace  
Pennsylvania  
Penn State – Dickinson Law  
Pepperdine  
Pittsburgh  
Pontifical Catholic of Puerto Rico  
Puerto Rico  
Quinnipiac  
Regent  
Richmond  
Roger Williams  
Rutgers  
St. John’s  
Saint Louis  
St. Mary’s  
St. Thomas (Florida)  
St. Thomas (Minnesota)  
Samford  
San Diego  
San Francisco  
Santa Clara  
Seattle  
Seton Hall

South Carolina  
South Dakota  
South Texas – Houston  
Southern University  
Southern California  
Southern Illinois  
Southern Methodist  
Southwestern  
Stanford  
Stetson  
Suffolk  
Syracuse  
Temple  
Tennessee  
Texas  
Texas A&M  
Texas Southern  
Texas Tech  
Toledo  
Touro  
Tulane  
Tulsa  
UNT Dallas  
Utah  
Vanderbilt  
Vermont  
Villanova  
Virginia  
Wake Forest  
Washburn  
Washington and Lee  
Washington  
Washington University  
Wayne State  
Western New England  
Western State  
West Virginia  
Widener – Delaware  
Widener – Commonwealth  
Willamette  
William and Mary  
Wilmington  
Wisconsin  
Wyoming

Yale  
Yeshiva