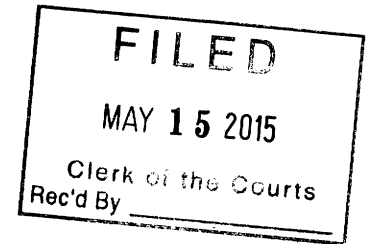


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TLAW

Tennessee Lawyers'
Association for Women

May 12, 2015



The Honorable James Hivner, Clerk
100 Supreme Court Building
401 7th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219-1407

**Re: Amendment of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 7;
Docket No. ADMIN2015-00443**

Dear Mr. Hivner:

I am writing on behalf of the Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women ("TLAW") to provide you TLAW's comments concerning the petition to add a new section 5.03 to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 7, to permit the temporary admission of qualified attorney spouses of active duty servicemembers to practice law in the state of Tennessee.

During TLAW's April 2015 Board meeting, this proposed rule change was presented for review and discussion. Since its formation in 1989, TLAW and its members have been committed to the efficient administration of justice and to achieving the full participation of women lawyers in the rights, privileges and benefits of the legal profession.

TLAW recognizes the sacrifices made by members of our military. TLAW also recognizes that military spouse attorneys face significant disadvantages as a result of their families' service to our country. Because even today most military spouses are women, women are disproportionately impacted by the difficulties associated with continuing to pursue their chosen profession amidst frequent changes in their spouses' duty stations. TLAW supports a rule that assists military spouses in continuing their careers while balancing the legal standards expected by attorneys who practice within this state. The proposed amendment strikes an appropriate balance of maintaining the high standards of our legal community while also assisting military spouse attorneys in pursuing their own careers with minimal disruption to their families. TLAW urges the Court to consider the proposed rule change most favorably.

Sincerely Yours,

Cheryl G. Rice

CGR/ms

**United States District Court
Middle District of Tennessee
704 United States Courthouse
Nashville, TN 37203-3874
E-Mail: joe_b_brown@tnmd.uscourts.gov**

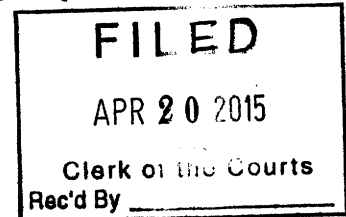
**Joe B. Brown
United States Magistrate Judge**

**Office: (615) 736-2119
FAX: (615) 736-2121**

April 14, 2015

ADM2015-00443

James Hivner, Clerk
Re: Rule 7, Section 5.03
100 Supreme Court Building
401 Seventh Avenue, North
Nashville, Tennessee 37219-1407



Dear Mr. Hivner:

I strongly support the adoption of Section 5.03 to the Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 7 to allow the temporary admission of qualified attorneys who are spouses of active duty service members.

I served on active duty as a Judge Advocate from 1965 until 1971 and continued as a Reserve Judge Advocate Officer until my retirement as a Colonel in the United States Army Reserve. I will have been a practicing attorney for 50 years this July.

This is a much needed change to the rules as it would greatly relieve some of the stress that the spouses of our active duty service members face. Unfortunately, with the increased activities of the military in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as continued deployments to Korea and other locations worldwide, service members are moving far more often than was prevalent in the past. Their spouses will accompany them to a stateside post or remain near their last post during overseas deployment. These spouses need gainful employment. The legal problems facing service members are often unique to the service. Many times it is difficult for them to find attorneys who are experienced with military matters. Spouses of military members who are attorneys are in a unique position to assist in filling this void, and it will allow them to have meaningful employment.

The spouses will be attorneys duly licensed in one or more jurisdictions and fully subject to the discipline of their home state as well as Tennessee should they gain admission under this rule. Given the temporary nature of the exemption, it is not a backdoor approach to allow full admission to practice in Tennessee for an extended period of time.

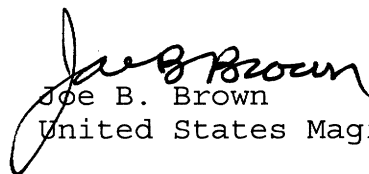
James Hivner, Clerk

April 14, 2015

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As a Magistrate Judge in the Middle District of Tennessee, I would have no reservations whatsoever about having a spouse admitted under the proposed rule practicing before me. From my judicial and military experience, I am fully satisfied that they would provide excellent representation. The ability to practice their profession would greatly relieve the stress caused by the military service and deployment of their spouses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe B. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Joe B. Brown
United States Magistrate Judge

JBB:jmh