DEC 0 1 2008 Clerk of the Courts

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: AMENDEDMENT TO RULE 7, SECTION 7.01, RULES OF THE TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT

ORDER M2008-02646-5C-RL2-RL

Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 7 section 7.01 governs eligibility to take the bar examination. The Court is considering an amendment to section 7.01, which would delete the existing language in its entirety and replace it with the following new section 7.01:

Sec. 7.01. Eligibility to Take Examination. — Notwithstanding the provisions of § 2.01 and § 2.02, an applicant who has completed a course of study in and graduated from a law school in a foreign country, which law school was then recognized and approved by the competent accrediting agency of such country, may qualify, in the discretion of the Board, to take the bar examination provided the applicant shall satisfy the Board that his or her undergraduate education and legal education were substantially equivalent to the requirements of this rule. In addition, the applicant shall also demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that he or she has successfully completed at least 28 semester hours in residence at a law school approved by the American Bar Association or has successfully earned one-third of the credits necessary to graduate from a law school approved by the Board under § 2.03; those semester hours or credits shall be earned in classes which are each substantially concentrated on a single subject tested in the bar examination. An applicant who graduated from a law school in a foreign country shall also comply with the other pertinent provisions of this rule and shall be required to pass the bar examination.

The Court hereby publishes the proposed amendment for public comment and solicits written comments from the bench, the bar, and the public. The deadline for submitting written comments is Monday, March 2, 2009. Written comments should be addressed to:

Michael W. Catalano, Clerk 100 Supreme Court Building 401 Seventh Avenue North Nashville, TN 37219-1407 The Clerk shall provide a copy of this order to the Attorney General and Reporter, the Tennessee Attorneys General Conference, the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference, Tennessee Bar Association, and the respective deans of the Nashville School of Law, University of Memphis School of Law, University of Tennessee College of Law, and Vanderbilt University Law School. In addition, this order shall be posted on the Tennessee Supreme Court's website.

It is so ORDERED.

FOR THE COURT:

JANICE M. HOLDER, CHIEF JUSTICE