

SEEKING AN ADVANCED DETERMINATION FROM THE BOARD OF BAR EXAMINERS TO DETERMINE THE EQUIVALENCY OF A FOREIGN LEGAL EDUCATION

The Board of Bar Examiners welcomes letters of inquiry from applicants who are considering applying for admission by bar examination or on motion to the Maine bar and who wish to confirm that one's foreign legal education meets the requirements of Maine Bar Admission Rules 10(c)(4) and 11A(a)(3)(iii), and the Board's Regulations for Determining Equivalency of Foreign Legal Education. These may be found on this website.

Please note that Maine Bar Admission Rule 10(c)(4) requires that applicants who graduate from a foreign law school with a legal education which, in the Board's opinion is equivalent to that provided by ABA-accredited law schools, **must ALSO have been admitted to practice in that country or by examination in at least one jurisdiction within the United States, AND have been in active practice in a jurisdiction in which applicant is licensed for at least three years before being eligible to sit for the Maine bar**, MBAR 10(c)(4). Maine Bar Admission Rule 11A(a)(2)(C) requires that applicants seeking admission on motion have been primarily engaged in the active practice of law in one or more United States jurisdiction **for five of the past seven years**, MBAR 11A.

Letters of inquiry should include:

- (1) a transcript from all foreign and U.S. law schools attended, with certified English translation, if necessary;
- (2) specific identification of which courses on those transcripts are believed to meet the regulations;
- (3) a description (or link to the webpage) of every course that is believed to meet the regulations, with English translation if necessary;
- (4) evidence that the person is admitted in foreign and/or United States jurisdictions, as well as date(s) of admission, confirmation of good standing, and explanation of any breaks in good standing status (i.e. administrative suspension, inactive status); and
- (5) evidence that the person seeking to take the bar exam has practiced law for at least three years in one of the jurisdictions in which he/she was admitted (*e.g.*, a sworn statement from employer describing the work that was done), including a detailed description of the attorney's practice or teaching throughout the three-year period of active practice, including position(s) held, a description of the work conducted, and dates and location(s) of employment. In the case of an applicant seeking *admission on motion*, the evidence must show active practice in one or more United States jurisdictions for five of the past seven years.

The letter of inquiry may also include information and/or questions that the attorney deems relevant. Responses to letters of inquiry will be issued within four weeks of receipt and, where adequate information has been provided, will include a determination by the Board of Bar Examiners as to the eligibility of the attorney to apply for admission on motion to the Maine bar.

Letters of inquiry should be addressed to:

Executive Director

Maine Board of Bar Examiners

P.O. Box 140

Augusta, ME 04103

or email execdir@mainebarexaminers.org