

Supreme Court of Texas

Misc. Docket No. 24-9064

Order Amending Rule 13 of the Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Texas

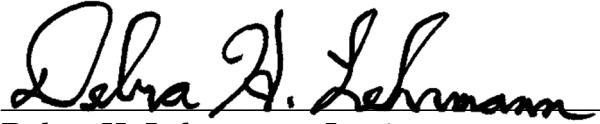
ORDERED that:

1. The Court approves the following amendments to Rule 13 of the Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Texas, effective immediately.
2. 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 each elected member of the Legislature; and
 - d. submit a copy of this Order for publication in the *Texas Register*.

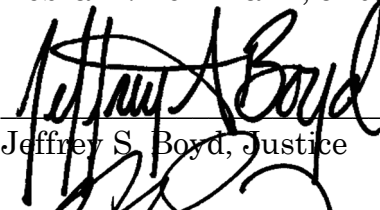
Dated: September 3, 2024.



Nathan L. Hecht, Chief Justice



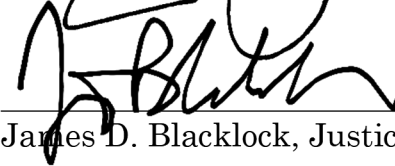
Debra H. Lehrmann, Justice



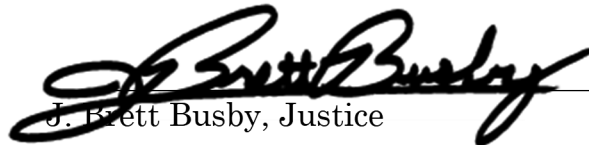
Jeffrey S. Boyd, Justice



John P. Devine, Justice



James D. Blacklock, Justice



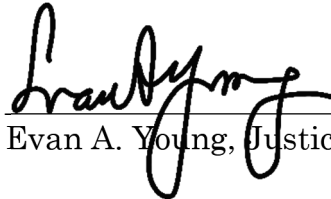
J. Brett Busby, Justice



Jane N. Bland, Justice



Rebeca A. Huddle, Justice



Evan A. Young, Justice

Rule 13
Applicants from Other Jurisdictions

§ 9 LL.M. Curriculum Criteria

- (a) Unless subsection (b) or (c) applies, for an LL.M. degree to satisfy the requirements of this Rule, the course of study for which the degree is awarded must meet each of the following requirements:
- (1) the program must consist of minimum of 24 semester hours of credit—or the equivalent, if the law school is on an academic schedule other than a conventional semester system—which must consist of courses in substantive and procedural law or professional skills;
 - (2) the program must require at least 700 minutes of instruction time, exclusive of examination time, for the granting of one semester of credit;
 - (3) the program must include a period of instruction consisting of no fewer than two semesters of at least 13 calendar weeks each, or the equivalent thereof, exclusive of reading periods, examinations, and breaks;
 - (4) the program must not be completed exclusively during summer semesters, but a maximum of four semester hours of credit may be earned in courses completed during summer semesters;
 - (5) the program must be completed within 24 months of matriculation;
 - (6) all coursework for the program must be completed at the U.S. campus of, or through synchronous online instruction offered by, an approved law school ~~in the United States~~, except as otherwise permitted by paragraph (8) or subsection (b);
 - (7) the program must include:
 - (A) at least two semester hours of credit in professional responsibility;
 - (B) at least two semester hours of credit in legal research, writing, and analysis, which may not be satisfied by a research-and-writing requirement in a substantive law course;
 - (C) at least two semester hours of credit in a course designed to

introduce students to distinctive aspects and fundamental principles of United States law, which may be satisfied by an introductory course in the American legal system or a course in United States constitutional law, civil procedure, or contract law—additional credit hours earned in a course that meets the requirements of this subparagraph may be applied towards the requirements of subparagraph (D); and

(D) at least six semester hours of credit in subjects tested on the Texas Bar Examination; and

(8) the program may also include, towards satisfaction of the 24 semester hours of credit required by this Rule:

(A) up to four semester hours of credit in clinical coursework, if:

(i) the coursework includes ~~a classroom~~ an instructional component that incorporates discussion, review, and evaluation of the clinical experience;

(ii) the clinical work is performed under the direct supervision of a member of the law school faculty or instructional staff; and

(iii) the time and effort required and the anticipated educational benefit are commensurate with the credit awarded; and

(B) up to six semester hours of credit in other coursework related to the law or legal training taught in conjunction with a joint degree program by a member of the law school faculty, a faculty member of the university or college with which the law school is affiliated, or a faculty member of a university or college with which the law school offers a joint degree program ~~provided that the coursework is completed at the U.S. campus of the law school, university, or college; and~~

~~(9) — courses completed online or by other distance learning programs must not count toward the required minimum 24 semester hours of credit.~~

(b) As used in paragraph (a)(6), “synchronous online instruction” means that the instructor and the students in the course engage with the course content and each other at the same time, but from different locations. A law school may petition the Board for an exception to the requirements of paragraph (a)(6).

~~The law school must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that the quality of education provided at the school's campus abroad is substantially equivalent to the quality of education provided at the school's U.S. campus.~~

- (c) An applicant who completed an LL.M. degree before October 1, 2016 is exempt from demonstrating that the degree meets the curricular requirements of subsection (a).
