IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA

October 13, 2026

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that Rule VII.D. and Rule VII.E., Rules Governing Admission to the Alabama State Bar, be amended to read in accordance with Appendices A and B, respectively, to this order;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the amendments to Rule VII.D. and Rule VII.E. are effective immediately; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the following note from the reporter of decisions be added to follow Rule VII.:

> "**Note from the reporter of decisions:** The order amending Rule VII.D. and Rule VII.E., Rules Governing Admission to the Alabama State Bar, effective October 13, 2026, is published in that volume of *Alabama Reporter* that contains Alabama cases from __ So. 3d."

Stewart, C.J., and Shaw, Wise, Bryan, Sellers, Mendheim, Cook, McCool, and Parker, JJ., concur.

Witness my hand and seal this 13th day of October, 2026.

Megan B. Rhodebeck

Clerk of Court,
Supreme Court of Alabama

FILED
October 13, 2026

Clerk of Court
Supreme Court of Alabama

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA

October 13, 2026

APPENDIX A

Rule VII.D., Rules Governing Admission to the Alabama State Bar

D. Verified Application. In order to appear as counsel before a court or administrative agency in this State, a foreign attorney shall file with the court or agency where the cause is pending a verified application for admission to practice, together with proof of service by mail, in accordance with the Alabama Rules of Civil Procedure, of a copy of the application upon the Alabama State Bar at its Montgomery, Alabama, office or by electronic mail to PHV@alabar.org. In the event application is made before any defendant in an action has appeared, a copy of the application must also be served upon such defendant. The copy of the application served upon the Alabama State Bar shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable $300 filing fee.

Upon receipt of any application for admission, the Alabama State Bar shall file with the court or agency and serve upon all counsel of record, or upon any parties not represented by counsel, and upon the applicant, a statement indicating whether the applicant or other attorney members of the firm with which he or she is associated have previously made any application for admission, the date of such application, and whether it was granted. No application shall be granted before this statement of the Alabama State Bar has been filed with the court or agency.

Upon receipt of the Alabama State Bar's statement, the court or administrative agency may grant or deny the application, with or without a hearing, in its discretion, unless a hearing is required by the court or administrative agency. If a hearing is conducted, the court or administrative agency may grant or deny the application upon completion of the hearing. A copy of each order granting or denying an application shall be mailed by local counsel to the Alabama State Bar at its Montgomery, Alabama, office or emailed to PHV@alabar.org.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA

October 13, 2026

Pro bono applications need not be accompanied by a filing fee and must be filed no later than the first occasion on which pro bono counsel files any pleading or paper with the court or otherwise personally appears. No hearing on a pro bono application is required. No statement from the Bar is required for pro bono applicants, but a copy of the verified application still must be filed with the Bar.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA

October 13, 2026

APPENDIX B

Rule VII.E., Rules Governing Admission to the Alabama State Bar

E. Form of Application. The application required by this rule for a foreign attorney other than pro bono counsel shall be on a form approved by the Alabama State Bar and shall state: (1) the applicant's residence; (2) the court or courts to which the applicant has been admitted to practice and the date or dates of admission; (3) that the applicant is a member in good standing of such court or courts (with such exceptions as may be the case); (4) that the applicant is not currently suspended or disbarred from practice in any court (stating exceptions); (5) the title of the court and cause in which the applicant or any member of the firm of attorneys with which the applicant is associated has filed an application for admission as counsel under this rule in this State in the preceding three years, the date of each application, and whether it was granted; (6) the name, address, email address, and telephone number of local counsel who is attorney of record; and (7) the name of each party and the name and address of counsel of record who appeared for that party. The applicant shall also provide such other information and statements as may be called for by the form. A separate application form has been approved for pro bono counsel.

The application forms for foreign attorneys wishing to appear pro hac vice, including the form for pro bono counsel, may be obtained from PHV Admissions, Alabama State Bar, P.O. Box 671, Montgomery, AL 36101 (334-269-1515), or from the Alabama State Bar's Web site: www.alabar.org or by e-mailing the PHV Admissions at PHV@alabar.org.

Before any application is granted, in cases where local counsel is required, local counsel must appear as attorney of record in the particular cause or must consent in writing to the association.

The granting or denial of an application for admission as counsel pursuant to this rule is discretionary with the court or administrative agency before which the application is made. A trial or appellate court may, in a particular proceeding pending before it, deny an application for admission as pro bono counsel pursuant to this rule only where the applicant's conduct as a lawyer, including conduct in proceedings in Alabama in which the applicant has appeared pro hac vice and conduct in other jurisdictions in which the lawyer has practiced, raises reasonable doubt that the lawyer will comply with the Alabama Rules of Professional Conduct and other rules and law governing the conduct of lawyers who appear before the courts of Alabama.

Absent special circumstances, repeated appearances by any person or firm of attorneys, other than pro bono counsel, pursuant to this rule shall be cause for denial of an application. In any case, other than a pro bono case, where the foreign attorney has entered an appearance pro hac vice in 5 cases within the preceding 12 months, the court or administrative agency shall examine the foreign attorney to establish good cause for according such privilege, including facts or circumstances affecting the personal or financial welfare of the client and not the attorney. Such facts may include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) a showing that the cause involves a complex field of law in which the foreign attorney is a specialist, (2) a long-standing attorney-client relationship, (3) lack of local counsel with expertise in the field involved, (4) the existence of legal questions involving the law of a jurisdiction in which the foreign attorney regularly practices, or (5) the need for extensive discovery proceedings in the foreign jurisdiction.

In the event the action or cause is transferred from one court or administrative agency of this State to another or in the event the action is appealed, a foreign attorney authorized to appear in the cause while it was pending before the first court or administrative agency shall be deemed admitted to the court or agency to which the cause has been transferred or appealed; provided, however, that the court or agency having jurisdiction over the transferred or appealed cause may, for good

cause, revoke the authority of the foreign attorney to appear. (See Section F, "Appearance Before an Appellate Court.")