

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

**IN RE:
TEMPORARY WAIVER OF SUPREME
COURT RULE 202(D).**

ADMIN ORDER. No. 2020-0016

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF JUDGMENT/ORDER

**TO: Justices of the Supreme Court
Judges & Magistrate Judges of the Superior Court
Judges & Magistrate Judges of the District Court
The Honorable Albert Bryan, Governor of the Virgin Islands
The Honorable Novelle Francis, President, 33rd Legislature
Marie E. ThomasGriffith, Esq., Chair, Committee of Bar Examiners
The Honorable Geoffrey W. Barnard, Chair Emeritus, Committee of Bar Examiners
Office of Bar Admissions
Nesha R. Christian-Hendrickson, Esq., President, V.I. Bar Association
Hinda Carbon, Executive Director, V.I. Bar Association
Regina D. Petersen, Administrator of Courts
Veronica J. Handy, Esq., Clerk of the Supreme Court
Tamara Charles, Clerk of the Superior Court
Glenda L. Lake, Esq., Clerk of the District Court
Supreme Court Law Clerks
Supreme Court Secretaries
News Media
Order Book**

Please take notice that on August 20, 2020, a(n) **ORDER** dated August 20, 2020, was entered by the Clerk in the above-entitled matter.

Dated: August 20, 2020

**VERONICA J. HANDY, ESQ
Clerk of the Court**

By: /s/ Jessica Grant

**Jessica Grant
Deputy Clerk II**

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN RE:) ADMIN ORDER. No. 2020-0016

TEMPORARY WAIVER OF SUPREME)
COURT RULE 202(D).)
_____)

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, Supreme Court Rule 202.5 provides that the Chief Justice, by administrative order, may temporarily waive certain bar admissions and regulatory requirements due to the existence of an emergency affecting the justice system in the U.S. Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, Supreme Court Rule 202(d) provides that the special admission provided by Rule 202 expires after two years unless, on or before the last day of the eighteenth month of the attorney's two-year term, the specially-admitted attorney files a complete application for regular admission, including payment of all attendant fees and, if not eligible for admission by motion or score transfer, actually sits for the Virgin Islands Bar Exam, in which case the specially-admitted attorney shall have his or her special admission extended for one additional year; and

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the in-person administration of the bar examination scheduled for July 2020 was cancelled and replaced with a remote bar examination scheduled for October 5-6, 2020; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the cancellation of the July 2020 bar examination and without the intervention of this Court, certain specially-admitted attorneys will not be eligible to receive the additional third year of special admissions due to the inability to sit for the bar exam;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, that the provisions of Supreme Court Rule 202(d) are **HEREBY TEMPORARILY WAIVED**, and replaced with the following modified procedures:

1. (a) Any specially-admitted attorney in the second year of admission who was required to register and sit for the July 2020 administration of the Virgin Islands Bar Examination to receive a third year of special admission shall receive that additional year of admission if he or she timely registers and sits for either the October 2020 remote administration or the February 2021 in-person administration. The additional year of admission shall begin upon the expiration of the two-year term of special admission, and shall be granted *nunc pro tunc* to any specially-admitted attorney whose special admission expired between March 23, 2020, and the date of entry of this Order.
(b) A specially-admitted attorney who receives an extension under this rule but fails to timely register for the exam will have their admission automatically terminate on the original date his or her special admission was set to expire or the day after the deadline for timely registration for the February 2021 exam, whichever is later.
(c) A specially-admitted attorney who receives an extension under this rule and timely registers for the exam, but fails to sit for either the October 2020 or February 2021 administrations, will have their admission automatically terminate on the original date his or her special admission was set to expire or the first day of the February 2021 exam, whichever is later.
(d) A specially-admitted attorney who receives an extension under this rule and fails the October 2020 exam will be required to register and sit for the February 2021 exam in order to maintain the extended admission. A specially-admitted attorney who fails to do so will have their admission automatically terminate on the original date his or her special admission was set to expire or the day after the deadline for timely registration for the February 2021 exam, whichever is later.

2. Any specially-admitted attorney in the third year of admission or whose special admission expired between March 23, 2020, and the date of entry of this Order shall remain specially admitted through expiration of their three-year admission or through April 30, 2021, whichever is longer. This extension shall be granted *nunc pro tunc* with respect to any qualifying specially-admitted attorney whose special admission already expired.

It is further

ORDERED that copies of this order be directed to the appropriate parties.

SO ORDERED this 20th day of August, 2020.

/s/ Rhys Hodge
RHYS S. HODGE
Chief Justice

ATTEST:

VERONICA J. HANDY, ESQ.
Clerk of the Court

By: /s/ Jessica Grant
Deputy Clerk

Dated: August 20, 2020

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