

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

**IN RE:
CANCELLATION OF SEPTEMBER 2020
SITTING OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS BAR
EXAMINATION AND ADMINISTRATION
OF OCTOBER 2020 REMOTE BAR
EXAMINATION, AND MODIFICATION OF
CERTAIN BAR ADMISSIONS
PROCEDURES.**

S. Ct. ADM. No. 2020-0012

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 July 16, 2020, a(n) **ORDER** dated July 16, 2020, was entered by the Clerk in the above-entitled matter.

Dated: July 16, 2020

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

By: /s/ Jessica Grant

**Jessica Grant
Deputy Clerk II**

but not limited to advising the public to stay at home and only leave as necessary, ordering the closure of all bars and gaming facilities, restricting beach access, imposing travel restrictions, and encouraging all businesses to permit non-essential employees able to do so, to work from home or remotely; and

WHEREAS, in light of the changed circumstances throughout the Territory, this Court concludes that it is unlikely that it will be able to safely administer an in-person administration of the Virgin Islands Bar Examination; and

WHEREAS, the National Conference of Bar Examiners has advised jurisdictions that it will assist in the administration of a remote bar examination on October 5-6, 2020, as an alternative to an in-person bar examination;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, that the following procedures applicable to bar admissions matters are **HEREBY ADOPTED**, and **SHALL GO INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY** and will remain in effect during this declared COVID-19 public health emergency unless sooner altered or rescinded by further order of the Court:

1. The in-person administration of the Virgin Islands Bar Examination scheduled for September 30 to October 1, 2020, is cancelled. The Office of Bar Admissions will administer a remote bar examination offered by the National Conference of Bar Examiners on October 5-6, 2020. As soon as reasonably possible, the Office of Bar Admissions will notify all applicants of the security, technology, and procedural requirements for the remote bar examination.

2. All individuals who were registered for the September 2020 administration of the Virgin Islands Bar Examination will have their registration automatically transferred to the October 2020 remote administration. An applicant who is unable to sit for the October 2020 remote administration may elect to have the registration transferred to the February 2021 or July 2021 in-

person administrations, or may request a refund of any bar examination fees already paid. An applicant who wishes to transfer registration or request a refund shall file the request no later than July 31, 2020.

3. Because the deadline to register for the cancelled September 2020 administration of the bar exam has already lapsed, no new applicants shall be permitted to register for the October 2020 remote administration. Applicants who requested special accommodations for the September 2020 in-person exam shall notify the Office of Bar Admissions no later than August 14, 2020, whether the requested accommodation is still necessary in light of the October 2020 exam being administered remotely.

4. The October 2020 remote bar examination will consist of 100 MBE questions, three MEE questions, and one MPT item. **Applicants are advised that the October 2020 remote bar examination is not an administration of the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE), and therefore any scores earned will not be portable to other UBE jurisdictions.** However, applicants who passed the essay portion of the Virgin Islands Bar Examination and must earn a passing score on the MBE to qualify for regular admission may use a passing score on the MBE portion of the October 2020 remote bar examination to satisfy that requirement.

5. Because the Virgin Islands Law Component (VILC) is already administered remotely, the VILC will be administered on September 10, 2020, and December 10, 2020, pursuant to existing procedures, without modification.

It is further

ORDERED that the requirement that applications for *pro hac vice* admission pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 201 be accompanied with a certificate of good standing from every jurisdiction in which the applicant is admitted is temporarily suspended. An application for *pro*

hac vice admission shall be deemed complete if it is accompanied with a single certificate of good standing demonstrating that the applicant is currently in good standing as an active member of the bar of any state or territory of the United States or of the District of Columbia. It is further

ORDERED that all other modifications to the bar admissions rules set forth in the May 28, 2020 Administrative Order shall remain in effect to the extent not inconsistent with the modified procedures set forth in this Order.

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

SO ORDERED this 16th day of July, 2020.

/s/ Rhys S. Hodge
RHYS S. HODGE
Chief Justice

ATTEST:

VERONICA J. HANDY, ESQ.
Clerk of the Court

By: /s/ Jessica Grant
Deputy Clerk

Dated: July 16, 2020

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