

## Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Maryland

### Rule 16. LEGAL ASSISTANCE BY LAW STUDENTS

#### (a) Definitions

As used in this Rule, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) Law School

"Law school" means a law school meeting the requirements of Rule 4(a)(2).

(2) Clinical program

"Clinical Program" means a law school program for credit, in which a student obtains experience in the operation of the legal system by engaging in the practice of law, that is

(A) under the direction of a faculty member of the school and

(B) has been approved by the section Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the Maryland State Bar Association, Inc.

(3) Supervising Attorney

"Supervising attorney" means an attorney who is a member in good standing of the Bar of this State and whose service as a supervising attorney for the clinical program is approved by the dean of the law school in which the law student is enrolled or by the dean's designee.

#### (b) Eligibility

A law student enrolled in a clinical program is eligible to engage in the practice of law as provided in this Rule if the student:

(1) is enrolled in a law school;

(2) has read and is familiar with the Maryland Lawyers' Rules of Professional Conduct and the relevant Maryland Rules of Procedure; and

(3) has been verified in accordance with section (c) of this Rule.

#### (c) Certification

(1) Contents and Filing

The dean of the law school shall file the certification of a student with the Clerk of the Court of Appeals. It shall state that the student is in good academic standing and has successfully completed legal studies in the law school amounting to the equivalent of at least one-third of the total credit hours required to complete the law school program. It shall also state its effective date and expiration date, which shall be not later than one year after the effective date.

(2) Withdrawal or Suspension

The dean may withdraw the certificate at any time by mailing a notice to that effect to the Clerk of the Court of Appeals. It shall automatically be suspended upon the issuance of an unfavorable report of the Character Committee made in connection with the student's application for registration as a candidate for admission to the Bar. Upon reversal of the Character Committee, the certification shall be reinstated.

#### (d) Practice

In connection with a clinical program, a law student for whom a certificate is in effect may appear in any trial court or the Court of Special Appeals or otherwise engage in the practice of law in Maryland provided that the supervising attorney

(1) is satisfied that the student is competent to perform the duties assigned,

(2) assumes responsibility for the quality of the student's work,

(3) directs and assists the student to the extent necessary, in the supervising attorney's professional judgment, to ensure that the student's participation is effective on behalf of the client the student represents, and

(4) accompanies the student when the student appears in court or before an administrative agency.

The law student shall neither ask for nor receive personal compensation of any kind for service rendered under this Rule.

(Amended Feb. 8, 2005, effective July 1, 2005) Source: This Rule is derived from former Rule 18.