

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SUPREME COURT  
RULES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BAR OF OHIO**

The following amendments to the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio (Gov. Bar R. VI, Sections 4, 6, and 15; Gov. Bar. R. X, Section 5; and Appendix I) were adopted by the Supreme Court of Ohio. The history of these amendments is as follows:

June 17, 2019	Initial publication for public comment
November 13, 2019	Final adoption by conference
February 1, 2020	Effective date of amendments

Key to Adopted Amendments:

1. Unaltered language appears in regular type. Example: text
2. Language that has been deleted appears in strikethrough. Example: ~~text~~
3. New language that has been added appears in underline. Example: text

SUPREME COURT RULES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BAR OF OHIO

1 **RULE VI. REGISTRATION OF ATTORNEYS**

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3 [Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]

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5 **Section 4. Obligations of Attorney.**

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7 [Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]

8  
9 **(D) Interest-bearing trust account information**

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11 [Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]

12  
13 (2) The Office of Attorney Services shall forward the information received pursuant to  
14 division (D)(1) of this section to the Ohio ~~Legal Assistance~~ Access to Justice Foundation,  
15 which shall maintain the information consistent with R.C. 4705.10(B) and the rules of the  
16 foundation.

17  
18 [Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]

19  
20 **Section 6. Corporate Counsel Attorney Registration.**

21  
22 **(A) Definitions**

23  
24 As used in this section:

25  
26 (1) “Pro bono legal service” means legal service provided either to a person of  
27 limited means or to a charitable organization.

28  
29 (2) “Qualified employer” means a nongovernmental employer whose business  
30 is lawful and consists of activities other than the practice of law or the provision of  
31 legal services. “Qualified employer” shall include the employing entity or its  
32 organizational affiliates, including entities that control, are controlled by, or are  
33 under common control with the employer and the employees, officers, and directors  
34 of such entities.

35  
36 **(B) Registration requirement**

37  
38 (1) An attorney who is admitted to the practice of law in another state ~~or~~ the District  
39 of Columbia, or a territory of the United States, but not admitted in Ohio, ~~who is employed~~  
40 commences employment as an attorney by a nongovernmental in Ohio for a qualified  
41 employer, the business of which is lawful and consists of activities other than the practice  
42 of law or the provision of legal services, and who, as a result of that employment, has a  
43 systematic and continuous presence in Ohio as permitted pursuant to Prof.Cond.R.

44 5.5(d)(1) shall register for corporate counsel status ~~upon commencement of employment~~  
45 ~~as an attorney by submitting to the Office of Attorney Services all of the following:~~

46  
47 ~~(a) The certificate of registration required for attorneys registering for active~~  
48 ~~status pursuant to Section 2 of this rule for the current biennium and each biennia~~  
49 ~~during which the attorney is so employed;~~

50  
51 ~~(b) The fee required for attorneys registering for active status pursuant to~~  
52 ~~Section 2 of this rule;~~

53  
54 ~~(c) An application on a form provided by the office;~~

55  
56 ~~(d) Documents demonstrating admission to the practice of law and good~~  
57 ~~standing in all jurisdictions in which the attorney has been admitted to the practice~~  
58 ~~of law and demonstrating that the attorney is on active status in at least one other~~  
59 ~~state or the District of Columbia or a territory of the United States;~~

60  
61 ~~(e) An affidavit on a form provided by the office completed by an officer,~~  
62 ~~director, or general counsel of the employing entity attesting to the attorney's~~  
63 ~~employment by the entity, the date of commencement of employment, and the~~  
64 ~~capacity in which the attorney is so employed and stating that the employment~~  
65 ~~conforms to the requirements of this rule;~~

66  
67 ~~(f) Any other documents or information as deemed appropriate by the office~~  
68 ~~pursuant to division (C) of this section.~~

69  
70 (2) ~~Division (A)(1) of this section shall not apply to an An attorney who is admitted to~~  
71 ~~the practice of law in another state ~~or~~ the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United~~  
72 ~~States, but not in Ohio, and who is employed by, associated with, or a partner in ~~an Ohio a~~~~  
73 ~~law firm shall not be eligible to register for corporate counsel status pursuant to division~~  
74 ~~(C) of this section. Until the attorney is admitted to the practice of law in Ohio or~~  
75 ~~affirmatively authorized to practice law in Ohio pursuant to a Supreme Court rule or order,~~  
76 ~~the attorney may not practice law in Ohio, hold the attorney's self out as authorized to~~  
77 ~~practice law in Ohio, or practice before any nonfederal court or agency in Ohio on behalf~~  
78 ~~of any person except the attorney's self, unless granted leave by the court or agency. The~~  
79 ~~law firm may include the name of the attorney on its letterhead only if the letterhead~~  
80 ~~includes a designation that the attorney is not admitted in Ohio.~~

81  
82 ~~(B)(C) Registration application~~

83  
84 ~~An attorney who is required to register for corporate counsel status registration pursuant to~~  
85 ~~division (B)(1) of this section shall file all of the following with the Office of Attorney~~  
86 ~~Services:~~

87  
88 ~~(1) An application on a form provided by the office;~~  
89

- 90 (2) A non-refundable application fee of \$500;  
91  
92 (3) The certificate of registration required for attorneys pursuant to this rule for  
93 the current biennium and each biennia during which the applicant is employed by  
94 a qualified employer;  
95  
96 (4) The fee required for Ohio attorneys registering for active status pursuant to  
97 Section 2 this rule;  
98  
99 (5) A certificate of good standing, dated no more than sixty days prior to the  
100 submission of the application, from each jurisdiction in which the applicant is  
101 admitted to the practice of law, including verification the applicant is active and  
102 eligible to practice in at least one jurisdiction;  
103  
104 (6) An affidavit from the applicant's qualified employer that does all of the  
105 following:  
106  
107 (a) Certifies that it meets the definition of a qualified employer as  
108 defined in division (A)(2) of this section;  
109  
110 (b) Attests to the applicant's employment as an attorney by the  
111 employer;  
112  
113 (c) Attests that the employment conforms to the requirements of this  
114 section;  
115  
116 (d) Confirms the date of commencement of the attorney's employment;  
117  
118 (e) Attests the employer is aware the attorney is not admitted to the  
119 practice of law in Ohio.  
120  
121 (7) Any other documents or information as deemed necessary by the office to  
122 determine eligibility to register for corporate counsel status pursuant to this section.

123  
124 **(D)** **Biennial registration**

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126 An attorney registered for corporate counsel status under this section shall register  
127 biennially with the Office of Attorney Services of the Supreme Court pursuant to ~~the~~  
128 ~~requirements of Section 2 of this rule~~ and shall be subject to all registration requirements  
129 for attorneys, including late registration, suspension, and reinstatement.  
130

131 **(E)** **Failure to register**

132  
133 An attorney who is admitted to the practice of law in another state ~~or~~ the District of  
134 Columbia, or a territory of the United States, but not in Ohio, and who performs legal  
135 services in Ohio for ~~the attorney's~~ a qualified employer, but fails to ~~register~~ file an

136 application for corporate counsel status under this section within one hundred eighty days  
137 of commencing employment as an attorney for the qualified employer in compliance with  
138 this section or does not qualify to register under this section, ~~may~~ shall be referred for  
139 investigation of the unauthorized practice of law under Gov. Bar R. VII and, at the  
140 discretion of the Chief Justice, may be precluded from applying for admission without  
141 examination under Gov. Bar R. I. An attorney who registers within one hundred eighty  
142 days of commencing employment pursuant to this section shall not be deemed to have  
143 engaged in the unauthorized practice of law pursuant to Gov.Bar R. VII.  
144

145 ~~(D)(F)~~ **Scope of practice**

146  
147 (1) An attorney who is registered for corporate counsel status under this section may  
148 perform legal services for ~~the employing entity or its organizational affiliates, including~~  
149 ~~entities that control, are controlled by, or are under common control with the qualified~~  
150 ~~employer, and for employees, officers, and directors of such entities,~~ but only on matters  
151 directly related to the attorney's work for the ~~entity~~ qualified employer and only to the  
152 extent consistent with Prof.Cond.R. 1.7.  
153

154 (2) An attorney registered under this section shall not do either of the following:  
155  
156 (a) Appear before a court or any other tribunal in Ohio on behalf of the  
157 attorney's employer or any person except for the lawyer's self, except if granted  
158 leave by the court or tribunal as provided in Gov. Bar R. XII;  
159  
160 (b) Offer or provide legal services or advice to any person other than as  
161 described in division ~~(D)(1)~~ (F)(1) of this section, or hold the attorney's self out as  
162 being authorized to practice law in Ohio other than as described in division ~~(D)(1)~~  
163 (F)(1) of this section.  
164

165 ~~(E)(G)~~ **Pro bono legal service**

166  
167 ~~(1) As used in this rule, "pro bono legal service" means legal service provided either~~  
168 ~~to a person of limited means or to a charitable organization.~~

169  
170 ~~(2)~~ Notwithstanding division ~~(D)(F)~~ of this section, an attorney registered for corporate  
171 counsel status under this section may provide pro bono legal service if the legal service is  
172 assigned, verified, and reported to the Commission on Continuing Legal Education by any  
173 of the following:  
174

175 ~~(a)(1)~~ An organization receiving funding for pro bono programs or services from  
176 the Legal Services Corporation or the Ohio ~~Legal Assistance~~ Access to Justice  
177 Foundation;

178  
179 ~~(b)(2)~~ A metropolitan or county bar association;

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181 ~~(c)(3)~~ The Ohio State Bar Association;

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~~(4)~~(4) The Ohio ~~Legal Assistance~~ Access to Justice Foundation;

~~(5)~~(5) Any other organization recognized by the Commission pursuant to Gov. Bar R. X, Sec. (5)(H).

~~(F)~~(H) **Application of rules**

(1) An attorney registered for corporate counsel status under this section shall be subject to all rules and requirements governing the practice of law in Ohio, including the Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct.

(2) Upon admission to the practice of law in Ohio pursuant to Gov. Bar R. I, an attorney registered for corporate counsel shall not be subject to the requirements of this section.

~~(G)~~(I) **New lawyers training and continuing legal education requirements**

An attorney registered for corporate counsel status under this section shall comply with the new lawyers training and continuing legal education requirements of Gov. Bar R. X.

~~(H)~~(J) **Obligation to provide and update contact information**

An attorney registered for corporate counsel status under this section shall provide the Office of Attorney Services with the attorney's current residence address, office address, office telephone number, and office or residence e-mail address and shall notify the office of any change in the information recorded on the certificate of registration pursuant to division ~~(B)~~(C) of this section.

~~(I)~~(K) **Obligation to report**

An attorney registered for corporate counsel status under this section shall notify the Office of Attorney Services within ten days of any of the following:

- (1) Termination of the attorney's employment that was the basis for the attorney's registration as corporate counsel;
- (2) Any change in the attorney's license status in another jurisdiction, including the attorney's resignation from the practice of law;
- (3) The imposition of any disciplinary finding or sanction in any state ~~other than Ohio or~~ the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United States where the attorney has been admitted to the practice of law.

228 ~~(D)~~(L) **Termination of registration**

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The limited authority to practice law of an attorney registered for corporate counsel status under this section shall automatically terminate upon the occurrence of any of the following:

234

(1) The employment that was the basis for the attorney's registration for corporate counsel terminates;

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~~(2)~~ The attorney is admitted to the practice of law in Ohio pursuant to Gov. Bar R. 1;

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~~(3)~~ The attorney ceases to maintain active status in at least one other state or the District of Columbia or a territory of the United States;

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~~(4)~~(3) The attorney fails to maintain current good standing in at least one other state or the District of Columbia or a territory of the United States in which the attorney is admitted to the practice of law;

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~~(5)~~(4) The attorney is suspended or disbarred for disciplinary reasons in any state ~~or~~ the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United States or by any federal court or agency in which the attorney has been admitted to the practice of law.

251 ~~(K)~~(M) **Reinstatement of registration**

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An attorney registered for corporate counsel status under this section whose registration is terminated pursuant to division ~~(D)~~(L) of this section may ~~be reinstated upon submission of~~ reapply for such status by submitting an application ~~for reinstatement in a manner required by the Office of Attorney Services~~ pursuant to division (C) of this section.

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[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]

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**Section 15. Public Access to Records.**

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**(A) General**

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Except for residence addresses, residence telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, and social security numbers, information maintained by the Office of Attorney Services, provided by the office to another office of the Supreme Court, or provided by the office to the Ohio ~~Legal Assistance~~ Access to Justice Foundation pursuant Section 4(D)(2) of this rule shall be available for public access pursuant to Sup. R. 44 through 47.

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[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]

273 [Not analogous to former Rule VI, effective February 28, 1972; amended effective January 1,  
274 1981; November 17, 1982; July 1, 1983; May 13, 1985, July 1, 1986; January 1, 1989; July 1,  
275 1991; September 1, 1991; January 1, 1992; July 1, 1992; July 1, 1993; January 1, 1995; July 1,  
276 1995; November 1, 1995; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1999; November 28, 2000; June 1, 2002; August  
277 19, 2002; November 1, 2002; July 1, 2003; July 1, 2005, September 1, 2005; July 1, 2007;  
278 September 1, 2007; January 1, 2008; May 1, 2009; September 1, 2010; January 1, 2012; January  
279 1, 2013; November 1, 2013; January 1, 2015; April 1, 2015; December 1, 2015; July 1, 2016;  
280 September 15, 2016; November 1, 2017; November 1, 2018; July 1, 2019; February 1, 2020.]

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283 **RULE X. CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION**

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**[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**

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**Section 5. Allowance of Credit Hours.**

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**[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**

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(H) *Pro bono credit.*

292  
293

(1) As used in this rule, “pro bono legal service” means legal service provided either to a person of limited means or to a charitable organization.

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(2) The Commission may allow one credit hour for every six hours of pro bono legal service performed, with a maximum of six credit hours for service performed during a biennial compliance period, provided the legal service is assigned, verified, and reported to the Commission by any of the following:

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297

(a) An organization receiving funding for pro bono programs or services from the Legal Services Corporation or the Ohio ~~Legal Assistance~~ Access to Justice Foundation;

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(b) A metropolitan or county bar association;

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(c) The Ohio State Bar Association;

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(d) The Ohio ~~Legal Assistance~~ Access to Justice Foundation;

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(e) Any other organization recognized by the Commission as providing pro bono programs or services in Ohio.

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**[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**

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[Effective: July 1, 1988 and January 1, 1989; amended effective January 1, 1989; July 1, 1989; December 15, 1989; May 28, 1990; September 1, 1990; January 1, 1991; February 18, 1991; September 1, 1991; January 1, 1992; July 1, 1992; January 1, 1994; January 1, 1995; January 1, 1996; January 1, 1998; November 1, 1998; January 1, 2000; May 8, 2000; July 1, 2001; January

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319 21, 2002; July 1, 2002, September 1, 2004, November 7, 2005; November 1, 2007; November 1,  
320 2008; December 1, 2011; January 1, 2014; January 1, 2015; July 1, 2017; November 1, 2017;  
321 January 1, 2019; July 1, 2019; February 1, 2020.]

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324 **RULE XX. TITLE AND EFFECTIVE DATES**

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[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]

328 **(Insert division letter)** The amendments to Gov. Bar R. VI, Sections 4, 6, and 15;  
329 Gov. Bar R. X, Section 5; and Appendix I, adopted by the Supreme Court on November 13, 2019,  
330 shall be effective February 1, 2020.

331 **APPENDIX I: ATTORNEY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION REGULATIONS**

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[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]

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**Regulation 415: Credit for Pro Bono Legal Service**

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An Attorney or Judge may receive up to one hour of CLE Credit for each six hours of pro bono legal services performed. An Attorney or Judge may receive a maximum of six hours CLE Credit for such services performed during a biennial compliance period, provided the legal service is assigned, verified, and reported to the Commission by any of the following:

341

(A) An organization receiving funding for pro bono programs or services from the Legal Services Corporation or the Ohio ~~Legal Assistance~~ Access to Justice Foundation;

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(B) A metropolitan or county bar association;

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(C) The Ohio State Bar Association;

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(D) The Ohio ~~Legal Assistance~~ Access to Justice Foundation;

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(E) Any other organization recognized by the Commission as providing pro bono programs or services in Ohio.

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[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]

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**Regulation 1001: Effective Date of Regulations**

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[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]

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**(Insert division letter)** Amendments to the Regulations adopted by the Supreme

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Court on November 13, 2019, shall be effective February 1, 2020.

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[Effective: January 1, 1989; amended effective December 15, 1989, May 29, 2000, August 7, 2000; July 1, 2001, July 1, 2002, September 1, 2004, November 7, 2005; December 26, 2005;

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November 1, 2007; November 2008; January 1, 2013; January 1, 2014; November 1, 2017; September 1, 2018; July 1, 2019; February 1, 2020.]