

In the Indiana Supreme Court



In the Matter of Graduate Legal Interns
During COVID-19 Pandemic.

Supreme Court Case
No. 20S-MS-249

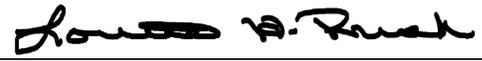
Order

On March 6, 2020, Governor Holcomb declared a public health emergency in Indiana relating to the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19); and on March 13, President Trump declared a national emergency relating to the virus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has determined that social distancing is necessary to minimize further spread of the virus, and the Indiana State Department of Health has issued and will continue to issue recommendations.

As a result of the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, it is unclear whether the State Board of Law Examiners will be able to administer the Indiana bar examination in July 2020 as scheduled or at any later date in calendar year 2020. In addition, the disruptions to personal and professional lives caused by the pandemic may result in some prospective applicants not having the financial resources or sufficient time to prepare and sit for an Indiana bar examination in 2020 whether administered in July or later in the year. The National Conference of Bar Examiners will announce its plan for the multistate portions of the bar examination on or about May 5, 2020. The Court will announce its plan for the administration of the bar examination by May 8, 2020.

The Supreme Court therefore ORDERS that any graduate of an ABA accredited law school who graduated after November 2019, and has not sat for a bar examination in Indiana or any other jurisdiction prior to February 2021, may serve as a graduate legal intern under Admission and Discipline Rule 2.1, Section 1(b) until February 28, 2021. If the graduate sits for the February 2021 Indiana bar examination, the graduate's status as a graduate legal intern will continue until notified of the results of the examination. If the graduate passes the examination, the status continues until the first opportunity thereafter for formal admission to the Bar of Indiana. If the graduate fails the examination, the status ends once the determination of failure is final after exhausting any appeals. Further adjustments and arrangements may be forthcoming as circumstances warrant.

Done at Indianapolis, Indiana, on 4/8/2020.



Loretta H. Rush
Chief Justice of Indiana

All Justices concur.