

NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court
Administrative Office of the Courts



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Arizona Supreme Court Authorizes Law Students and Recent Law School Graduates to Practice Law

PHOENIX – The Arizona Supreme Court authorized the emergency adoption of court rule changes allowing law school students and recent graduates the limited ability to practice law in Arizona. Effective May 1, 2020, qualifying students and graduates may practice law under the supervision of an attorney licensed in Arizona. Participants will be limited members of the State Bar of Arizona without paying membership fees.

The rule changes are an expansion of the rules that currently allow qualified law school graduates the limited practice of law in Arizona. Law students and graduates who meet the rules' requirements will be allowed to practice law in the ways defined in the rule changes. Participants who meet the rules' requirements may be fully licensed in due course and continue practicing law. Those who do not take or pass the bar exam, do not meet the character and fitness requirements, or who encounter one of the other termination events must stop the practice of law under the rules.

Rule petition [R-20-0007](#) was filed in January of 2020, with a supplemental petition filed March 31, 2020, and is one of many recommendations from the Supreme Court's Task Force on the Delivery of Legal Services, aimed at improving the public's access to legal services. The rule petition cycle usually takes one year from initial filing, to public comment, to decision by the Court, with implementation to start the following January. The Court exercised its authority for emergency adoption, allowing the rule changes to take effect May 1, 2020 with public comment remaining open through May 29, 2020. The Court will decide later this year whether to adopt the rules permanently, with or without additional modifications.

See the Court's order and the modified rules [here](#). See Chief Justice Robert M. Brutinel's letter to 2020 law school graduates [here](#).

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