

AMENDMENTS TO THE CALIFORNIA RULES OF COURT

**Adopted by the Supreme Court on June 21, 2017
Effective on January 1, 2018**

Title 9. Rules on Law Practice, Attorneys, and Judges

Division 1. General Provisions

Rule 9.1.9.0. Title and source

(a) Title

The rules in this title may be referred to as the Rules on Law Practice, Attorneys, and Judges.

Rule 9.2.(b) Source

The rules in this title were adopted by the Supreme Court under its inherent authority over the admission and discipline of attorneys and under subdivisions (d) and (f) of section 18 of article VI of the Constitution of the State of California.

**Division 2. Attorney Admission and Disciplinary Proceedings
and Review of State Bar Proceedings**

Chapter 1. General Provisions

Rule 9.5.9.1. Definitions

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Rule 9.9.9.2. Interim special regulatory assessment for attorney discipline

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Chapter 2. Attorney Admissions

Rule 9.3. Inherent power of Supreme Court

Rule 9.4. Nomination and appointment of Members to Committee of Bar Examiners

Rule 9.5. Supreme Court approval of admissions rules

Rule 9.6. Supreme Court approval of bar examination

Rule 9.4.9.7. Oath required when admitted to practice law

Rule 9.6.9.8. Roll of attorneys admitted to practice
Rule 9.7.9.9. Online reporting by attorneys

Rule 9.3. Inherent power of Supreme Court

(a) Inherent power over admissions

The Supreme Court has the inherent power to admit persons to practice law in California. The State Bar and its Committee of Bar Examiners serve as the administrative arm of the Supreme Court for admissions matters and in that capacity act under the authority and at the direction of the Supreme Court. The Committee of Bar Examiners is authorized to administer the requirements for admission to practice law, to examine all applicants for admission, and to certify to the Supreme Court for admission those applicants who fulfill the admission requirements.

(b) Inherent jurisdiction over practice of law

Nothing in this chapter may be construed as affecting the power of the Supreme Court to exercise its inherent jurisdiction over the practice of law in this state.

Rule 9.4. Nomination and appointment of members to the Committee of Bar Examiners

(a) Appointments

The Supreme Court is responsible for appointing ten examiners to the Committee of Bar Examiners, each for a four-year term. At least one of the ten examiners must be a judicial officer in this state, and the balance must be members of the State Bar. At least one of the attorney examiners shall have been admitted to practice law in California within three years from the date of his or her appointment. The court may reappoint an attorney or judicial officer examiner to serve no more than three additional full terms, and may fill any vacancy in the term of any appointed attorney or judicial officer examiner.

(b) Nominations

The Supreme Court must make its appointments from a list of candidates nominated by the Board of Trustees of the State Bar pursuant to a procedure approved by the court.

Rule 9.5. Supreme Court approval of admissions rules

All rules adopted by the State Bar Committee of Bar Examiners and approved by the State Bar Board of Trustees pertaining to the admission to practice law must be submitted to the Supreme Court for its review and approval.

Rule 9.6. Supreme Court approval of bar examination

(a) Bar examination

The Committee of Bar Examiners is responsible for determining the bar examination's format, scope, topics, content, questions, and grading process, subject to review and approval by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court must set the passing score of the examination.

(b) Analysis of validity

At least once every seven years, or whenever directed by the Supreme Court, the State Bar must conduct an analysis of the validity of the bar examination. The State Bar must prepare and submit a report summarizing its findings and recommendations, if any, to the Supreme Court. Any recommendations proposing significant changes to the bar examination, and any recommended change to the passing score, must be submitted to the Supreme Court for its review and approval.

(c) Report on examination

The State Bar must provide the Supreme Court a report on each administration of the bar examination in a timely manner.

Rule 9.4.9.7. Oath required when admitted to practice law

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Rule 9.6.9.8. Roll of attorneys admitted to practice

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Rule 9.7.9.9. Online reporting by attorneys

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Chapter 2.3. Attorney Disciplinary Proceedings

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Chapter 3.4. Legal Education

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