

TITLE 4. ADMISSIONS AND EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

Division 1. ADMISSION TO PRACTICE LAW IN CALIFORNIA

Chapter 3. Required Education

Rule 4.29 Study in a Law Office or Judge's Chambers

- (A) A general applicant may satisfy some or all of the four-year legal education requirements of rule 4.26(B)(1) through the person who intends to comply with the legal education requirements of these rules and Section 6060 of the Business and Professions Code by study of law in a law office or judge's chambers by participating in the Law Office Study Program. must
- (B) A prospective participant in the Law Office Study Program, must:
- (1) register as a general applicant for admission to the practice of law in California by submitting and obtaining approval of an Application for Registration under rule 4.16;
 - (2) submit an Application for the Law Office Study Program with the required form application and all required documentation and with the fee set forth in the Schedule of Charges and Deadlines within thirty days of no less than at least 30 thirty days prior to the intended date of beginning study; and
 - (3) obtain State Bar approval of an Application for the Law Office Study Program Have their application approved by the State Bar prior to beginning study, with no credit available for hours of study completed before State Bar approval;
- (C) The State Bar will deem An a Application for approval of study in a law office or judge's changes is not considered to be the Law Office Study Program complete until when all required documentation has been submitted and deemed complete by the State Bar and applicable the required fees paid. The State Bar will notify the general applicant if an application has been deemed incomplete. The general applicant must cure all deficiencies within 60 days of receipt of the notification or the application will be deemed abandoned, absent a showing of good cause. Applications that are submitted incomplete will be deemed abandoned if not brought to a completed status within sixty days of the initial submission of the application. No refund shall of fees will be issued for an abandoned application.
- (D) If the State Bar denies an Application for the Law Office Study Program, the general applicant will receive a refund of fees submitted with the application, except for the processing fees. An applicant whose application to study in a law office of judge's chambers is denied by the State Bar is eligible for a refund of all fees submitted for the application to study law in a law office or judge's chambers.

(E) To receive credit for a 6-month study period, a general applicant in the Law Office Study Program must:

- (1) ~~have studied study law under the supervision of an attorney or judge in a law office or judge's chambers during regular business hours for at least eighteen hours each week for a minimum of forty eight weeks to receive credit for one year of study or for at least 72 hours per month for ~~6 six~~ consecutive months lasting at least 24 weeks and no longer than 26 weeks; and ~~7~~ eighteen hours a week for a minimum of twenty four weeks to receive credit for one half year of study completing each six month study session in no more than twenty six weeks. Participants are encouraged to engage in their studies for a consistent 18 hours per week for a minimum of 24 weeks for each one half year of study.e~~
- (2) ~~submit a report ("semi-annual report") within 30 days of completion of each 6-month study period, semi-annual reports, as required by section (B)(5) below on the Committee's State Bar's form or as otherwise directed by the State Bar, with the fee set forth in the Schedule of Charges and Deadlines within thirty days of completion of each six month period; and~~

(F) A general applicant will:

- (1) ~~Not receive credit for hours of study completed before the State Bar has approved their Application for the Law Office Study Program; and~~
- (2) ~~Only receive credit for study in 6-month increments, as described in subdivision (E) of this rule. Any study hours completed outside of a qualifying 6-month study period, as described in subdivision (E) of this rule, will not be counted towards the four-year legal education requirements of rule 4.26(B)(1).~~

(G) The attorney or judge ~~who supervises with whom the general applicant is studying~~ must:

- (1) ~~be an active licensee of the State Bar of California who has been an active licensee in good standing, and has practiced law, for a minimum of five consecutive years immediately prior to beginning supervision oversight of the general applicant's studies and has been engaged in the active practice of law for that time, or be a judge of a court of record of California this state;~~
- (1) ~~be admitted to the active practice of law in California and be in good standing for a minimum of five years;~~
- (2) ~~provide to the general applicant, for submission with the Application for the Law Office Study Program, the Committee State Bar within thirty days of the applicant's beginning study an outline of the entire a proposed course of study that accounts instruction for each six 6-month study period for the full number of years of study~~

~~required that he or she they will personally supervise/oversee, to be submitted by the applicant with other application materials no less than thirty days prior to the applicant beginning study as required by section (A)(1) above;~~

- (3) ~~supervise the general applicant synchronously, in-person or via remote video technology, for at least 20 hours per month;~~
 - (4) ~~personally directly supervise the general applicant in person for at least 10 five hours of the 120 hours required by subdivision (G)(3) of this rule for each 6-month study period a week;~~
 - (5) ~~administer graded examinations to examine the general applicant at least once a month on study completed the previous month;~~
 - (6) ~~provide to the general applicant, for inclusion in their semi-annual reports to the Committee State Bar for each 6-month study period, every six months on the Committee's State Bar's form or in any other manner directed by the State Bar, to be submitted by the applicant as required by section (A)(4) above, the number of hours the general applicant studied each month, specifying week during business hours in the law office or chambers; the number of hours of synchronous supervision, both in-person and via remote video technology; devoted to supervision personal oversight of the course of instruction and the number of hours devoted to direct supervision of the student; specific information on the books and other a description of the materials studied, such as chapter names, page numbers, and the like; the name of any other applicant supervised copies of the graded monthly examinations for each 6-month study period, including questions, answers, and any written feedback or grades; and any other information or documentation requested by the Committee State Bar may require;~~
 - (7) ~~attest, for each 6-month study period, whether the general applicant has or has not demonstrated sufficient academic progress to proceed to the next 6-month study period; attach to the report copies of the graded monthly examinations for each of the six months of the study period, including questions, answers, and any written feedback or grades, and,~~
 - (8) ~~not personally simultaneously supervise personally oversee the course of instruction of no more than two general applicants simultaneously in the Law Office Study Program.~~
- (H) ~~General applicants Students~~ in the Law Office Study Program are subject to the requirements of ~~r~~Rule 4.32 and will not receive credit for hours of study devoted to repetition of studies previously completed.

- ~~(I) General applicants Students in the Law Office Study Program who participate in the Certified Practical Training of Law Students Program, pursuant to Title 3, Division 1, Chapter 1 of the Rules of the State Bar, will not receive study-hour credit for time spent engaging in activities undertaken as part of the Certified Practical Training of Law Students Program. A general applicant participating in the Law Office Study Program by studying law in a judge's chambers is ineligible to concurrently participate in the Certified Law Student Program.~~
- ~~(E) The hours of study in a law office or judge's chambers required by section (A)(5) can be completed in whole or in part in a physical location outside the law office or judge's chambers at the discretion of the attorney or judge, subject to the requirement of section (F) for a minimum number of hours of direct supervision to be provided in person. If the attorney or judge permits an applicant to complete the hours of study entirely in a location other than the law office or judge's chambers, the outline of the proposed course of instruction required by section (B)(2) must include a plan for how the attorney or judge will provide adequate supervision for the student without having the student physically present.~~
- ~~(F) For each twelve weeks of study, a minimum of five hours of the direct supervision required under section (B)(3) must be provided through in-person interaction between the attorney or judge and the student with both physically present in the same location. Part or all of the remaining required hours of direct supervision may be provided by the attorney or judge and the student engaging in synchronous interaction using remote video technology. If the attorney or judge intends for some of the hours of direct supervision to be provided using remote video technology, the outline of the proposed course of instruction required by section (B)(2) must state the number of hours of direct supervision proposed to be provided using remote video technology each week and include a plan for how the attorney or judge will ensure that the direct supervision provided in this manner will result in the same level of engagement as in person direct supervision.~~
- ~~(J) A student who is studying law in a law office or judge's chambers and who wishes to study General applicants in the Law Office Study Program must submit an application with the fee set forth in the Schedule of Charges and Deadlines to change the under a different attorney or judge under whom they study, must file a new application with the fee set forth in the Schedule of Charges and Deadlines no less than at least 15 days prior to beginning study with a new supervisor who meets the requirements of subdivision (G) of this rule, the new attorney or judge. The application must include a declaration from the new attorney or judge supervisor and a new outline of the proposed course of instruction as required by subdivision (G)(2) of this rule under section (B)(2). If the student general applicant's supervisor changes makes this change during a six6-month study period, they student must, within 30 thirty days of beginning study with the new attorney or judge supervisor, submit a report from the previous attorney or judge supervisor on all study completed with that attorney or judge, with the required fee for submission of a semi-~~

annual report. The first semi-annual report reflecting the study conducted under the new attorney or judge supervisor shall will cover only the remainder of that initial six 6-month study period.

(K) A semi-annual report, as required under ~~section~~ subdivision (E)(25) of this rule, that is submitted:

(i) between 31 and 60 ~~more than thirty days but no more than sixty days after the completion of the 6-a six-month study period of study~~ is subject to a late fee as set forth in the Schedule of Charges and Deadlines and will not be accepted without ~~submission~~ payment of the late fee.

(ii) more than 60 ~~A semi-annual report that is submitted more than sixty days after the completion of the 6-a six-month study period of study~~ will not be accepted, and the general applicant ~~student~~ will not receive credit for that ~~six~~ 6-month study period.

(L) Failure to submit a semi-annual report within one year of beginning study in the Law Office Study Program, ~~a law office or judge's chambers~~ or within one year of submission of the most recent semi-annual report, will result in the ~~termination of the general applicant's participation in the Law Office Study Program-being moved to suspended status. An general applicant who has been placed on suspended-terminated from the program and status who~~ wishes to resume their study under this rule, ~~in the same or a different law office or judge's chambers~~ must submit an new Application for the Law Office Study Program ~~to resume study with the all required documentation materials and the required fee. A general applicant student who resumes study after being placed on suspended-terminated from the program status~~ will receive credit for any ~~six~~ 6-month study periods ~~of study~~ recognized ~~deemed completed~~ by the State Bar prior to the ~~termination suspension~~.

(M) If the supervisor attests, under subdivision (G)(7) of this rule, that the general applicant has not demonstrated sufficient academic progress to proceed to the next 6-month study period, or fails to provide an attestation, the general applicant's participation in the Law Office Study Program will be terminated unless:

(i) within 12 months from the conclusion of the last completed 6-month study period, the general applicant repeats the course of study after which their supervisor submitted either a negative attestation or failed to provide an attestation and submits a semi-annual report; and

(ii) the general applicant's current supervisor submits an attestation that the general applicant demonstrates sufficient academic progress to proceed to the next 6-month study period.

- (N) If terminated from the Law Office Study Program, the general applicant will retain credit already received and recognized by the State Bar.
- (O) An attorney or judge currently supervising a general applicant in the Law Office Study Program at the time this subdivision is added to this rule: ~~The changes to the application deadlines in paragraph (A)(2)-(3) that take effect in 2023 shall apply to initial applications filed after the effective date of the rule change. The changes to the eligibility criteria for the supervising attorney or judge in paragraph (D)(1) that take effect in 2023 shall not serve to disqualify an attorney or judge approved prior to the effective date of the rule change. However, an attorney or judge who does not meet the then-current eligibility criteria will shall not be approved to supervise any other law office study participant.~~
- (i) may continue to supervise that specific general applicant in the Law Office Study Program so long as that general applicant is not subsequently terminated from the Law Office Study Program; and
- (ii) must, except as permitted under subdivision (O)(1) of this rule, meet the current requirements for a supervising attorney or judge set forth in this rule if they desire to supervise a general applicant in the Law Office Study Program.