

15-301.2. Legal services provider limited law license.

A. Definitions. As used in this rule, the following definitions apply:

(1) "applicant" means an attorney who meets the eligibility requirements set forth in Paragraph B of this rule and who completes the application process in Paragraph C of this rule;

(2) "qualified legal services provider" means a not for profit legal services organization whose primary purpose is to provide legal services to low income clients or a legal department within a non-profit organization that employs at least one (1) lawyer full-time to provide legal services to low income clients; and

(a) is an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) and exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or corresponding provisions of federal income tax laws from time to time in effect;

(b) is registered with the New Mexico Attorney General Registry of Charitable Organizations in compliance with the New Mexico Charitable Solicitations Act and;

(c) is recommended by the New Mexico Commission on Access to Justice.

B. Eligibility. Upon application, the clerk of the Supreme Court may issue a legal services limited license to represent legal services clients through a qualified legal services provider to an attorney who meets the following conditions:

(1) is an inactive member of the State Bar of New Mexico or an active or inactive member of the bar in another state, territory, or protectorate of the United States of America or the District of Columbia at the time of submitting an application under this rule;

(2) is in good standing in each jurisdiction in which the attorney is licensed;

(3) satisfies the legal services limited license requirements set forth in this rule; and

(4) supplies a sworn statement that the applicant has not been the subject of disciplinary action by the bar or courts of any jurisdiction during the preceding five (5) years; provided, however, that complaints against the applicant shall not be considered disciplinary actions.

C. Application procedure. An applicant for a legal services limited license to represent legal services clients through a qualified legal services provider shall file with the clerk of the Supreme Court an application for a legal services limited license. The application shall be accompanied by the following:

(1) a certificate of admission to practice and good standing from each state in which the applicant is licensed to practice law or in the case of an inactive attorney a certificate showing that attorney's inactive status;

(2) a letter from the director of the qualified legal services provider that employs the applicant certifying the applicant's employment, whether for monetary compensation or otherwise;

(3) a certificate signed by the applicant stating that the applicant has read and is familiar with the New Mexico Rules of Professional Conduct, other New Mexico Supreme Court rules and New Mexico statutes relating to the conduct of attorneys, and the Creed of Professionalism of the State Bar of New Mexico;

(4) a docket fee in the amount of one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) payable to the New Mexico Supreme Court; and

(5) a state bar membership fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) payable to the State Bar of New Mexico, consisting of a state bar services fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) and a disciplinary fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) in lieu of the fee required by Rule [17-203](#) NMRA. All fees and costs associated with an application for a legal services limited license are not refundable.

D. License; issuance and revocation.

(1) If an applicant for a legal services limited license to represent legal services clients through a qualified legal services provider complies with the provisions of this rule, the clerk of the Supreme Court may issue a legal services limited license.

(2) A legal services limited license issued under this rule permits the applicant to practice law in New Mexico only as an attorney representing legal services clients through a qualified legal services provider.

(3) The clerk of the Supreme Court shall revoke the legal services limited license of any person found in violation of this rule or any other rules approved by the Supreme Court regulating the licensing and conduct

of attorneys. Upon revocation of a legal services limited license, the applicant shall not represent any legal services client nor appear before any court of the State of New Mexico representing any legal services client.

E. **Expiration.** A legal services limited license shall expire upon the occurrence of any of the following events:

- (1) termination of employment with a qualified legal services provider;
 - (2) admission to the New Mexico Bar upon passing the bar examination;
 - (3) denial of admission to the New Mexico Bar;
 - (4) failure to maintain membership in good standing in at least one state bar in which the applicant is a member;
 - (5) reinstatement under Rule [15-302](#) NMRA of an inactive member of the State Bar of New Mexico;
- or
- (6) failure to pay the annual state bar membership fee or meet minimum legal education requirements under Paragraph F of this rule.

F. **Legal services limited licensee status.**

- (1) An applicant granted a legal services limited license under this rule shall be a member of the state bar and shall be subject to the Rules of Professional Conduct and the Rules Governing Discipline.
- (2) Licensees under this rule shall pay a reduced annual state bar membership fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), consisting of a state bar services fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) and a disciplinary fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) in lieu of the fee required by Rule [17-203](#) NMRA.
- (3) Licensees under this rule shall comply with the Rules for Minimum Continuing Legal Education.

[Adopted by Supreme Court Order No. 08-8300-024, effective August 29, 2008; as amended by Supreme Court Order No. 09-8300-001, effective January 14, 2009; by Supreme Court Order No. 11-8300-048, effective January 1, 2012; as amended by Supreme Court Order No. 13-8300-012, effective May 14, 2013.]