



State of Rhode Island Judiciary

Supreme Court – Clerk’s Office

Licht Judicial Complex
250 Benefit Street
Providence, RI 02903

Rhode Island Specific Instructions for National Conference of Bar Examiners Character Report Application

This National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) Character Report Application for Rhode Island (NCBE Application) is continuing in nature must be kept current, complete and correct.

If a question does not apply to you, you must answer “not applicable” or “N/A”. NCBE Applications with unanswered questions or with a notation that information will be provided later will be rejected.

In answering these questions, you are advised that no statute, administrative rule, court order or legal or administrative proceeding expunging or sealing the information required herein from any record or purporting to authorize any person to deny the existence of such matters shall excuse less than full disclosure.

The Rhode Island Committee on Character and Fitness makes inquiry about circumstances that may affect an applicant’s ability to meet the professional responsibilities of a lawyer. This information is treated confidentially by the Committee and the Rhode Island Supreme Court and will be disclosed only to the Committee to which this NCBE Application is submitted. The purpose of such inquiries is to allow the Committee and the Court to determine the current fitness of an applicant to practice law. The Committee routinely certifies for admission individuals who demonstrate personal responsibility and maturity in dealing with fitness issues. The Committee encourages applicants who may benefit from assistance to seek it.

The Committee may deny certification to applicants whose fitness to practice law is impaired at the time that the licensing decision is made, or to applicants who demonstrate a lack of candor by their responses. This is consistent with the public purpose that underlies the licensing responsibilities assigned to the Committee; further, the responsibility for demonstrating qualification to practice law is assigned to the applicant in Rhode Island.

You may assert the Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination in response to any question in this NCBE Application to which it may apply. If you choose to assert the Fifth Amendment privilege, you must do so specifically in response to the question. Any claim of Fifth Amendment privilege must be asserted in good faith. Your application will be processed if you claim the Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination. However, the Committee and the Court may take your refusal to answer questions into account in assessing your candidacy.

Please note these specific instructions for the following questions which require supplemental answers in the form of an Addendum to the NCBE Application:

Question 19. List all residence history beginning after your eighteenth (18) birthday. If the provisions of R.I.G.L. § 17-28-3 relating to address confidentiality apply to you, or if the provisions of § 12-30-13 relating to the protection and supervision of witnesses apply to you, please indicate.

Question 20. List all employment (non-legal and legal) and unemployment information beginning with any employment or unemployment after your twenty-first (21st) birthday.

Questions 28, 29 and RI-23. In responding to Questions 28 and 29 and RI-23, "ability to practice law" shall be construed to include the following:

- a) the cognitive capacity to undertake fundamental lawyering skills such as problem solving, legal analysis and reasoning, legal research, factual investigation, organization and management of legal work, making appropriate reasoned legal judgments, and recognizing and solving ethical dilemmas, for example;
- b) the ability to communicate legal judgments and legal information to clients, other attorneys, judicial and regulatory authorities, with or without the use of aids or devices; and
- c) the capability to perform legal tasks in a timely manner.

Question 32. Include in your response any incidents for which you were given a written warning and include all matters when you were a juvenile. Attaching letters from law enforcement agencies in lieu of an answer is not acceptable. Once an offense is disclosed under any part of these questions, it is not necessary to report the same offense under another part of an answer.

Question 33. Include in your response any incidents for which you were given a written warning and include all matters when you were a juvenile. Attaching letters

from law enforcement agencies in lieu of an answer is not acceptable. Once an offense is disclosed under any part of these questions, it is not necessary to report the same offense under another part of an answer.

Question 34. Include in your response any incidents for which you were given a written warning and include all matters since turning the age of eighteen (18). Attaching letters from law enforcement agencies in lieu of an answer is not acceptable. Once an offense is disclosed under any part of these questions, it is not necessary to report the same offense under another part of an answer.

Questions 16, 18, 21, 23, 25, 26, 27, 32, 33, 34, RI-8, RI-9, RI-19, and RI-20. When answering these questions, you must include any and all information relative to any defenses or mitigating factors and/or any explanations for the conduct or circumstances in question.

Please create an Addendum and attach it to the end of the NCBE Application to submit answers to the questions above with your Petition for Admission submitted via the Rhode Island Supreme Court Attorney Portal (RISCAP). Please make sure that your Addendum is clearly labeled.