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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

COURT OPERATIONS DIVISION

LEGAL SERVICES

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May 3, 2018

MEMO TO: Joseph J. Del Ciampo, Deputy Director, Legal Services

SUBJECT: Recommendation for revision to Rule 7.4C of the Rules of Professional Conduct

In December, 2014, the Legal Specialization Screening Committee (LSSC) recommended that the Rules Committee amend Rule 7.4C of the Rules of Professional Conduct to allow for the electronic submission of applications for authority to certify lawyers as specialists. That recommendation included a proposal to remove the language: "an original and six copies of" the application from the rule and to add language requiring applicants to file applications in a format prescribed by the LSSC. That amendment was approved by the Rules Committee at its January 12, 2015 meeting, and half of that amendment became effective on January 1, 2016.

Unfortunately, it appears that the removal of the language requiring the submission of six copies of the applications was inadvertently omitted from the Appendix to the minutes of the Rules Committee's meeting, so was not submitted for public hearing or for a vote of the judges. Attached is the LSSC recommendation that includes the proposal to remove the words "an original and six copies of" from Rule 7.4C, which the Rules Committee approved.

At the April 24, 2018 meeting of the LSSC, the Committee again recommended that the Rules Committee, pursuant to its authority under Rules 7.4A through 7.4C of the Rules of Professional Conduct, remove the phrase "an original and six copies of" from Rule 7.4C. Attached is the LSSC recommended revision.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katharine E. Casaubon".

Katharine E. Casaubon
Counsel, Legal Specialization Screening Committee

Proposed Rule Change

Rule 7.4C. Application by Board or Entity to Certify Lawyers as Specialists

Any board or entity seeking the approval of the Rules Committee of the superior court for authority to certify lawyers practicing in this state as being specialists in a certain field or fields of law as set forth in Rule 7.4A (e), shall file [an original and six copies of] its application with the Legal Specialization Screening Committee pursuant to Rule 7.4B on form JD-ES-63. The application materials shall be filed in a format prescribed by the Legal Specialization Screening Committee, which may require them to be filed electronically.

COMMENTARY: The amendment to this rule removes an inconsistency between the language of the first and second sentences of this rule, and clarifies that the Legal Specialization Screening Committee will prescribe the format of the application submission, rather than to have the rule require the application to be filed in multiple hard copies. This amendment is also consistent with the Regulations of the Legal Specialization Screening Committee, which were updated in January, 2016 to require that applicants file one hard copy and one electronic copy of their applications.



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December 23, 2014

MEMO TO: Rules Committee

SUBJECT: Recommendation by the Legal Specialization Screening Committee

Enclosed for your consideration is a report from the Legal Specialization Screening Committee (LSSC) informing you of its recommendation on a matter that was acted on by the LSSC on December 17, 2014, pursuant to its authority under Rules 7.4A through 7.4C of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

The LSSC recommends that the Rules Committee consider the following revision to Rule 7.4C which will permit the electronic submission of applications:

Rule 7.4C Application by Board or Entity to Certify Lawyers as Specialists

Any board or entity seeking the approval of the Rules Committee of the superior court for authority to certify lawyers practicing in this state as being specialists in a certain field or fields of law as set forth in Rule 7.4A(e), shall file [an original and six copies of] its application with the Legal Specialization Screening Committee pursuant to Rule 7.4B on form JD-ES-63. The application materials shall be filed in a format prescribed by the Legal Specialization Screening Committee, which may require them to be filed electronically.

The LSSC seeks to have the option to require that applications be filed electronically, since applications are voluminous and are currently required to be filed in multiple hard copies for further distribution by the Judicial Branch. Having the ability to further distribute an electronic copy for the consideration of LSSC members will increase efficiency and cut costs. The LSSC intends to still require one hard copy submission in addition to the electronic submission.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Denise K. Poncini
Counsel, Legal Specialization Screening Committee

Enclosure