

April 20 2015

*Ed Smith*  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA

Case Number: AF 11-0244

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Montana Supreme Court  
P.O. Box 203003  
Helena, MT 59620-3003

AF 11-0244

re: Proposed Reciprocity Rule

Distinguished Justices:

As a lawyer who was admitted to practice by exam in Montana (2010), after practicing for more than twenty years, I would like to comment. While I can only speak of my own experiences, I suspect there are others they may apply to. Having lived here for four years and having had numerous people ask me legal advice, I decided to bite the bullet and take the bar exam once more. I did not do so in order to open an office and engage in the full time practice of law, but rather to address a need when one arose. Of note, I did not move to Montana to practice law but to pursue other things

Since passing the bar and being admitted, I have provided *pro bono* services and other services at a reduced rate. I suspect that some could argue that this takes away from services that might be filled by someone with an active practice, but I find that the need far exceeds the supply. I can say that I know of other lawyers, licensed in different jurisdictions, who live here and would like to have the opportunity to contribute here, but are unwilling to sit through the exam again. It seems that given the need, preventing experienced lawyers from being able to offer their services here does not best serve the public. I would strongly encourage the Court to

allow attorneys with a given level of experience to apply for admission in Montana without sitting for the Bar exam. I think we would all be better for it.

Respectfully submitted,



R. Jack Clapp