

ORIGINAL

FILED

10/02/2020

Bowen Greenwood  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA

Case Number: PR 06-0422

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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OCT 02 2020

Bowen Greenwood  
Clerk of Supreme Court  
State of Montana

IN RE: LINDA A. BURROWS,

Petitioner.

**PETITION TO WAIVE MPRE  
REQUIREMENT IN APPLICATION  
FOR ADMISSION BY MOTION TO  
MONTANA STATE BAR**

Linda A. Burrows, ("Petitioner"), petitions this Honorable Court to waive the three-year Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination ("MPRE") test requirement for admission into the State Bar of Montana by Motion. In support Petitioner states:

**BACKGROUND**

Petitioner is seeking admission to the State Bar of Montana by motion. She has completed all application requirements except for taking the MPRE. Petitioner was required to take the MPRE when originally seeking her license to practice law in 2000 in California. At the time Petitioner took the MPRE (1999), the State Bar of California required a passing score of 79. Petitioner passed the exam with a score of 116 and was admitted to the State Bar of California in 2000. Attached hereto as Exhibit A is a true and correct copy of the Examinee's Report of Scores the Petitioner received in April 1999 from the NCBE.

Since that time, Petitioner:

- Has been and is a member in good standing of the State Bar of California since 2000;
- Has practiced law in the areas of civil litigation, municipal law and estate planning/trust administration for 13 years, without any ethical or disciplinary issues in any jurisdiction where licensed or where admitted *pro hac vice*.

- Is a Certified Specialist in Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law recognized by the State Bar of California;
- Is a candidate for an Executive LL.M. in Taxation at the Georgetown Law Center;
- Has been a mentor to law students in the Pepperdine School of Law Preceptor Program since 2018;
- Has been on the Wealth Counsel California Drafting Committee since 2018; and
- Has been on the California State University – Channel Islands Planned Giving Advisory Council since 2019.

Ethical obligations are a core value of Petitioner's practice. While studying for and retaking the MPRE is certainly valuable in terms of focusing a practitioner's attention on the innumerable nuances and ethical traps that can arise, Petitioner hopes that her 13 years of practicing law ethically and without incident, coupled with a career worthy of recognition, would be an acceptable substitute under the circumstances. In that regard, Petitioner is aware that the State Bar of Montana is in discussions with this Court regarding the current requirements and near-term plans to petition the Court to revise the MPRE requirement to eliminate the testing and/or retesting requirement if the applicant has already taken and passed the MPRE for admission in another jurisdiction. Petitioner has met that requirement and, should this Court agree to implement this revised MPRE requirement, would be in compliance.

#### **REQUESTED RELIEF**

Petitioner respectfully requests that this Court waive the MPRE requirement and rely upon Petitioner's background and experience and previously passing of the MPRE for admission in another Jurisdiction as sufficient for admission to the Montana Bar.

Dated this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September 2020.



Linda A. Burrows  
1622 Swansea Pl.  
Westlake Village, CA 91361  
CA Bar No. 206751

# **EXHIBIT A**



# NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BAR EXAMINERS

MULTISTATE PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY EXAMINATION

## EXAMINEE'S REPORT OF SCORES

Please review carefully all information printed below. If any data are incorrect or incomplete, contact the board of bar examiners in the jurisdiction to which your scores were reported.

RAW SCORE	SCALED SCORE	TEST DATE	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER*
40	116	03/12/99	[REDACTED]

\* If you did not indicate a Social Security number on your answer sheet, an identification number was assigned to your record for processing purposes.

BURROWS, LINDA A  
24208 GILMORE ST  
WEST HILLS, IN 91307

Your scores (shown above) were reported to the following jurisdiction as you requested in Block J of your answer sheet:

### CALIFORNIA

This jurisdiction requires a minimum passing **scaled** score of:

79

Each jurisdiction has the authority to determine its own passing score. If the jurisdiction you chose does not list a passing score, check with the board of bar examiners in that state to determine the passing score.

## EXPLANATION OF SCORES

Your **RAW SCORE** is the number of test questions that you answered correctly in the examination. The lowest possible raw score is 0; the highest is 50.

**SCALED SCORES** are standard scores that range from 50 (low) to 150 (high). The original mean (average) scaled score was established at 100. The conversion of raw scores to scaled scores involves a statistical process that adjusts for variations in difficulty of different forms of the examination so that any particular scaled score will represent the same level of knowledge from test to test. For instance, if this test were more difficult than previous forms, then your scaled score would be adjusted upward to account for this difference. If this test were easier than previous forms, then your scaled score would be adjusted downward to account for this difference. The purpose of these adjustments is to help ensure that no examinee is unfairly penalized (or rewarded) for taking a harder (or easier) form of the test.

## ADDITIONAL SCORE REPORT REQUESTS

If, after the examination, you decide that you would like to have your scores sent to one or more boards of bar examiners in addition to the jurisdiction you indicated on your answer sheet, you may do so by writing to the address below. Your request should include your name, address, Social Security number, date of birth, test date, your signature, and each board of bar examiners you wish to receive a copy of your scores. Enclose \$15.00 for each board of bar examiners you request.

Duplicate score reports may also be requested by following this procedure.

## REQUESTS FOR RECHECKING OF ANSWER SHEETS

A request to have your answer sheet rechecked must be made within three months of the original test date. The request should include your name, Social Security number, date of birth, test date, and your signature, and should be sent to the address below.