

ORIGINAL

FILED

11/16/2020

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

No. PR 06-0422

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Bowen Greenwood  
Clerk of Supreme Court  
State of Montana

IN RE PETITION OF MEGHAN M. POIRIER  
FOR WAIVER OF THE THREE-YEAR MPRE  
REQUIREMENT IN APPLICATION FOR  
ADMISSION ON MOTION TO THE  
MONTANA STATE BAR

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PETITION

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I, Meghan M. Poirier, respectfully petition this Honorable Court to waive the three-year Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination ("MPRE") test requirement for eligibility for admission on motion to the State Bar of Montana. I am currently an active duty member of the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps ("JAG Corps"), with an approved retirement date of October 1st, 2021. In support of this motion, I attest to the following:

1. I have served my country as an active duty Army Officer continuously following my graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, in June 2001.

2. I graduated from the Wake Forest University School of Law in May, 2007, having attended law school while on active duty as part of the Army's Funded Legal Education Program.

3. I passed the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam in February of that year, a prerequisite to being admitted to the Tennessee State Bar.

4. I became a member of the JAG Corps in February 2008, after passing the Tennessee State Bar Exam administered in August 2007 and graduating from the JAG Officers Basic Course in Charlottesville, Virginia.

5. I have been a member in good standing of the Tennessee State Bar since November 2007, following my swearing-in;

6. I have practiced law as a military attorney for nearly 13 years in the areas of military justice, appellate defense, national security law, and military administrative law;

7. I have subscribed to the highest standards of ethical conduct, in accordance with both the Model Rules for Professional Responsibility and the Army Rules of Professional Responsibility;

8. I have never been suspended or subject to discipline in any jurisdiction; and

9. I most recently served as the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for U.S. Army Alaska, with responsibility for supervising a staff of approximately 70 attorneys and paralegals at the two major Army installations in Alaska. In this capacity, I am responsible for ensuring the ethical conduct of the military and civilian legal professionals assigned to my office, overseeing training on ethics and professional responsibility, and investigating any alleged ethical infractions.


Upon retirement, I will become a full-time Montana resident and hope to continue the practice of law. I have significant ties to Montana, with immediate family in the Bozeman area

and a plot of land just outside of Belgrade. Although I have not taken the MPRE within the last three years, as required by Rule VII, I ask you to consider nearly 13 years of active duty Army service as a military attorney an acceptable substitute. The Army maintains annual ethics training requirements, in addition to requiring a certification of good standing each year. Further, I am aware that the State Bar of Montana intends to propose a formal change to the MPRE requirement for applicants who have already successfully passed the exam. I have already met that requirement, and should the Court entertain the proposed revision to the Rules, would be in compliance.

#### **REQUESTED RELIEF**

I respectfully request that this Court waive the MPRE three-year requirement and rely upon my background and experience as an active duty military attorney, in good standing with the State Bar of Tennessee, as sufficient for admission to the State Bar of Montana.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 11th day of November, 2020.

BY:   
MEGHAN M. POIRIER