

ORIGINAL

FILED

08/09/2021

Bowen Greenwood
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Case Number: PR 06-0422

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

IN RE:

JOSEPH A. CRONE
Petitioner,

NO. PR 06-0422

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

Comes now, Joseph A. Crone ("Petitioner") and petitions this Honorable Court to waive the three-year Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination ("MPRE") test requirement for admission to the State Bar of Montana by Motion. In support, Petitioner states as follows:

Petitioner, a full-time resident of Montana, is seeking admission into the State Bar of Montana by Motion. He has submitted the NCBE Character and Fitness Application and the Montana Application for the Montana Board of Bar Examiners and Commission on Character and Fitness. He has not taken the MPRE within the last three (3) years.

Petitioner was required to take the bar exam and MPRE when originally seeking his license to practice law in Tennessee in 2013, and again in 2015 when seeking his license to practice law in Mississippi. Petitioner passed the MPRE in 2012 while still in law school, and prior to his taking the bar in Tennessee. Petitioner again had to retake the MPRE once again in 2015 as his first two attempts at the bar in Tennessee were unsuccessful. Petitioners' third attempt at the Tennessee Bar was successful, as was his first attempt at the Mississippi Bar in 2015.

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Since being admitted to the Bar in 2015, Petitioner:

-Is and has at all times been a member in good standing of the State Bar of Tennessee since 2015;

-Is and has been at all times been a member in good standing of the State Bar of Mississippi since 2015;

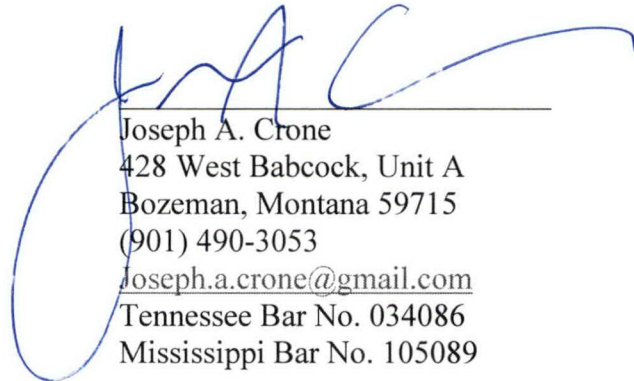
- Practiced law continuously as a criminal defense and civil litigation attorney for over five (5) years, without any disciplinary action in any jurisdiction where licensed or admitted to practice law;

-Owned a law practice for over five (5) years.

Ethical obligations are a daily focus of Petitioners' practice. While studying for and retaking the MPRE might enhance Petitioners' knowledge of his ethical obligations, Petitioner would hope that his five (5) years of practicing law ethically, along with successful passage of the MPRE twice in a three (3) year period, coupled with a career focused on serving the needs of a wide variety of clients and constituencies, would be 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, Petitioner would be in compliance.

WHEREFORE Petitioner respectfully requests that this Court enter an Order waiving the three-year MPRE test requirement for admission to the Montana Bar, set a hearing in this matter, and for such other relief as this Honorable Court deems appropriate.

Respectfully submitted this 6th day of August, 2021.



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