

FILED

OCT 20 2022

Bowen Greenwood
Clerk of Supreme Court
State of Montana

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

PR 06-0422

IN RE: PAULA M. STANNARD,)

Petitioner.)

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

Paula M. Stannard (“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, having relocated to and now being a full-time resident of Montana, is seeking admission to the State Bar of Montana by motion. She is currently managing the Office of Legal Affairs for the Director of the Department of Public Health and Human Services, with the title of Chief Legal Counsel. Petitioner has completed all application requirements (including online completion of the Montana Law Seminar) for admission on motion, except for submitting a qualifying MPRE score obtained within the past three years. Petitioner was required to take and pass the MPRE with a scaled score of at least 80 before she obtained her license to practice law in the State of Illinois in 1991. She successfully did so, with a scaled

score significantly higher than the required score, and, as set forth in the attached Certificate of Admission To the Bar of Illinois (Exhibit 1), Petitioner was admitted to practice law in Illinois on November 7, 1991. *Id.* Thus, although Petitioner has not received a qualifying MPRE score in the last three years, she did receive a qualifying score prior to her admission to the Bar of the State of Illinois. Petitioner notes that, in 2005, the Supreme Court of Illinois adopted a requirement that all active members of the State of Illinois Bar complete 30 hours of Continuing Legal Education (“CLE”) every two years, including four hours of professionalism, diversity issues, mental illness and addiction issues, civility, or legal ethics. Petitioner has met and continues to meet these CLE requirements.

Since her admission to the practice of law in Illinois, Petitioner:

- Has remained a member in good standing of the State of Illinois Bar (Exhibit 1).
- Applied for, was admitted to, and is a member in good standing of, the Bar of the District of Columbia (Exhibit 2). Petitioner has also been admitted to practice before several federal courts, including the Supreme Court of the United States.
- Has practiced law in a number of capacities for over 25 years. At no time has Petitioner faced any disciplinary or ethical issues. *See* Letter from the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of the Supreme Court of Illinois; Certificate Concerning Discipline and/or Administrative Suspension, District of Columbia Office of Disciplinary Counsel (Exhibits 3 and 4). Petitioner’s legal

experience includes:

- Ten years of practice as a corporate litigator in the Chicago office of a major New York law firm.
- Over seven years of service in legal positions in the Office of the General Counsel of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”), including as Counselor to the General Counsel, Deputy General Counsel, and, for thirteen months, Acting General Counsel.
- Over six years of practice as a health care compliance attorney in the D.C. office of a major Atlanta law firm.
- Over two years of service as an Acting Deputy General Counsel at HHS while serving for four years as Senior Counselor/Senior Advisor to the Secretary of HHS, a position in which she also utilized her legal skills.

In addition, at the beginning of her career, Petitioner served as a judicial law clerk for Judge J.L. Edmondson of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. During her two stints of service at HHS, Petitioner passed several extensive background investigations and was entrusted with security clearances and access to classified documents.

Petitioner conducts herself with integrity in both her personal and professional lives. Petitioner is committed to upholding the highest standards of attorney ethics and has consistently done so over the course of her career. Indeed, she has worked

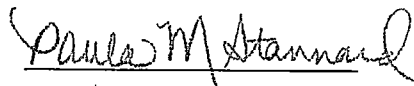
as in-house and outside counsel and always adhered to the rules of professional conduct. Petitioner submits that her experience, older MPRE test score, and continuing education in legal topics, including professionalism and legal ethics, accomplish the purpose of the three-year rule in the current admission rules.

In that regard, Petitioner is aware that the State Bar of Montana is in dialogue with this Court regarding the current requirements and 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 prior passing MPRE score, experience, and continuing legal education in legal topics, including professionalism and legal ethics, as sufficient for admission to the Montana Bar.

Dated: October 20, 2022



Paula M. Stannard
2205 5th Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
406.444.3127
Illinois Bar No. 6207692
D.C. Bar No. 999314

Certificate of Admission To the Bar of Illinois

I, Cynthia A. Grant, Clerk of the Supreme Court of Illinois, do hereby certify that

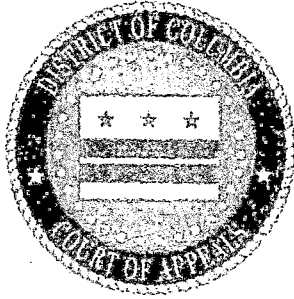
Paula Marie Stannard

has been duly licensed and admitted to practice as an Attorney and Counselor at Law within this State; has duly taken the required oath to support the CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES and of the STATE OF ILLINOIS, and also the oath of office prescribed by law, that said name was entered upon the Roll of Attorneys and Counselors in my office on 11/07/1991 and is in good standing, so far as the records of this office disclose.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
subscribed my name and affixed the
seal of said Court, this 21st. day of
June, 2022.

Cynthia A. Grant

Clerk,
Supreme Court of the State of Illinois

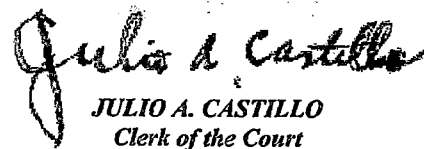


*On behalf of JULIO A. CASTILLO, Clerk of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals,
the District of Columbia Bar does hereby certify that*

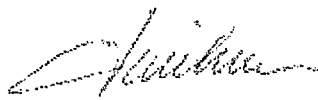
Paula Stannard

*was duly qualified and admitted on February 7, 2011 as an attorney and counselor entitled to
practice before this Court; and is, on the date indicated below, an Active member in good
standing of this Bar.*

*In Testimony Whereof,
I have hereunto subscribed my
name and affixed the seal of this
Court at the City of
Washington, D.C., on June 19, 2022.*


JULIO A. CASTILLO
Clerk of the Court

Issued By:


David Chu - Director, Membership
District of Columbia Bar Membership

*For questions or concerns, please contact the D.C. Bar Membership Office at 202-626-3475 or email
memberservices@dcbbar.org.*



ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION
of the
SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

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130 East Randolph Drive, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6219
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Paula Marie Stannard
206 West Lawrence Street, No. 2C
Helena, MT 59601

Chicago
Wednesday, June 22, 2022

Re: Paula Marie Stannard
Attorney No. 6207692

To Whom It May Concern:

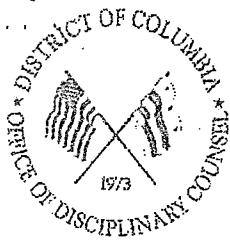
We have received a request for written verification of the status of Paula Marie Stannard for use by officials responsible for the review of the attorney's application for admission to the bar of another jurisdiction, or for a judicial position or for government employment. We have also received a Waiver and Authorization signed by the attorney. Pursuant to Commission policy, the following information is provided.

The records of the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Illinois and of this office reflect that Paula Marie Stannard was admitted to practice law in Illinois on 11/07/1991; is currently registered with this Commission and in good standing as an Illinois attorney; has never been disciplined or the subject of a disciplinary proceeding in this state; and is not the subject of any pending disciplinary investigations.

Very truly yours,
Jerome Larkin
Administrator

By://s//: Lisa Medina
Lisa Medina
Deputy Registrar

LM



OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

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Amanda Urefia
Angela Walker

Manager, Forensic Investigations
Charles M. Anderson

Investigative Attorney
Azadeh Matinpour

CERTIFICATE CONCERNING DISCIPLINE, AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE SUSPENSION

The undersigned is Deputy Disciplinary Counsel for the District of Columbia Bar, having been appointed by the Board on Professional Responsibility ("Board") pursuant to Rule XI, § 4(e)(2), of the Rules of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals Governing the Bar. As such, this office is the custodian of the records of the Board and has access to the membership records of the unified District of Columbia Bar.

On February 7, 2011, Paula Marie Stannard was admitted to practice in the District of Columbia and currently is an active member in good standing of the Bar.

No discipline has been imposed upon this attorney nor has Disciplinary Counsel filed a petition seeking discipline against this attorney. No complaint has been filed, upon which basis, this attorney has been required to respond to a formal investigation by Disciplinary Counsel.

Julia L. Porter
Deputy Disciplinary Counsel

Dated: June 21, 2022
JLP:snl

Email: pstannar@aol.com