



ORIGINAL

FILED

06/29/2023

Bowen Greenwood  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA

Case Number: PR 23-0232

Petitioner Name: Mary Claire Trimble  
Address: 2070 Cooper St. #213  
City, State, Zip: Missoula, MT 59808  
Telephone: 406-370-3656  
E-mail: mclairetrimble@gmail.com

FILED

JUN 29 2023

Bowen Greenwood  
Clerk of Supreme Court  
State of Montana

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

No. PR 23-0232

IN RE PETITION OF MARY CLAIRE TRIMBLE  
TO WAIVE RULE X(B) REQUIRING ADMISSION WITHIN ONE YEAR  
IN THE STATE BAR OF MONTANA

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P E T I T I O N

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COMES NOW Mary Claire Trimble and respectfully petitions this Court for admission to the State Bar of Montana, specifically for the Court to waive Rule X(B) requiring that applicants be sworn in within one year of notification, so that Trimble may be sworn in and finalize the admission process.

In its Order dated May 2, 2023, the Court stated:

To finish the admissions process, Trimble must petition the Court for admission, submitting the certification from the Bar Admissions Administrator that Trimble has satisfied all admissions requirements. Given the expiration of the one-year period in which to do so, Trimble must also request that the Court waive Rule X(B) by providing an explanation about why the process was not completed within one year.

Petitioner Trimble offers the letter from dated December 3, 2021, as proof of satisfaction of all requirements for admission to the Montana State Bar [Exhibit A].

In addition, the following is an explanation of why Trimble was not sworn in within one year of admission: In brief, petitioner was newly employed with the City of Missoula in a position that did not require bar admission and subsequently became pregnant with a high-risk pregnancy. These two factors combined meant that bar admission was not a priority during a time when limited personal leave was being used for medical appointments and saved for maternity leave.

In April 2021, Petitioner was laid off from employment with the federal court (USDC District of Oregon) and determined to move back to her hometown of Missoula, quickly completing all requirements to take the Montana July bar exam. In August, Trimble then accepted employment with the City of Missoula as the Senior Deputy City Clerk. This position, though legally adjacent, does not require a law degree and does not file or appear before any court. Trimble was notified of her admission in December. As a new employee Trimble had limited personal leave during this period of employment and in July 2022, Trimble became pregnant and was diagnosed with a high risk pregnancy, requiring additional leave for numerous specialist visits. While working full time, dealing with health complications from the pregnancy, and needing to diligently bank personal leave for maternity leave, completing admission to the bar was unfortunately not a priority. Happily, Trimble welcomed a healthy baby girl in March and is now requesting permission to resume the admission process.

Initially, petitioner voluntarily chose inactive status but would currently like to be sworn in and admitted to active status. Petitioner is willing and able to pay active dues, fees, and the state license tax to the State Bar of Montana and comply with any continuing education requirements this Court may impose.

Petitioner is not actively practicing law in another jurisdiction. Petitioner has not been employed as a law clerk while on inactive status. Petitioner is not currently suspended, disbarred, or otherwise ineligible to practice law in another jurisdiction. Petitioner is not currently subject to disciplinary proceedings or pending disciplinary proceedings in another jurisdiction. Petitioner has not been charged with a criminal offense while not on active status. Petitioner has not accrued delinquent debt or filed for bankruptcy while not on active status. Petitioner has not failed to fulfill the obligations of a public office or professional license (other than as an attorney) while not on active status. Finally, petitioner has not committed any acts or omissions while not on active status which would be sanctionable under the Montana Rules of Professional Conduct.

WHEREFORE, petitioner requests the Court waive Rule X(2) and permit Petitioner to be sworn into the State Bar of Montana; or whatever order of operations this Court deems appropriate to move forward.

The above statements are true based upon petitioner's knowledge and belief.

DATED this 26th day of June, 2023.

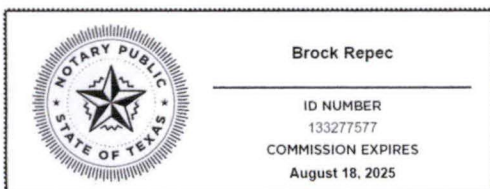
BY: MC7  
Trimble, Petitioner

State of Texas  
County of Denton

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 26th day of June,

2023 by Mary Claire Trimble (petitioner's name).

(Notarial Seal)



Notary Signature Brock Repec  
Printed Name of Notary Brock Repec  
Residing at Denton County, Texas  
Notary Public for the State of Texas  
Notarized online using audio-video communication

My Commission Expires 08/18/2025

*This a copy of this petition will be submitted to the Montana Supreme Court Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 203003, Helena, MT 59620. Please also provide a copy to the State Bar at P.O. Box 577, Helena, MT 59624.*



# COMMISSION ON CHARACTER AND FITNESS OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

33 SOUTH LAST CHANCE GULCH, Suite 1B • P.O. BOX 577 • HELENA, MONTANA 59624  
(406) 442-7660 Fax (406) 442-7763 Web Site: [www.montanabar.org](http://www.montanabar.org)

December 3, 2021

## CHAIR

ANNIE GOODWIN  
PO Box 1131  
Helena, MT 59624

Mary Claire Trimble  
2070 Cooper St. #213  
Missoula, MT 59808

## VICE CHAIR

BARBARA BELL  
P.O. Box 1525  
Great Falls, MT 59403-1525

RE: *Eligibility for Admission to the State Bar of Montana*

## MEMBERS

ROBERT M. CARLSON  
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Butte, MT 59703

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ROBERT J. SULLIVAN  
P.O. Box 9199  
Missoula, MT 59807

MICHAEL W. TOLSTEDT  
PO Box 577  
Helena, MT 59624

Hon. CAROLYN OSTBY  
PO BOX 1595  
Billings, MT 59103

Dear Mary:

The primary purposes of character and fitness screening before admission to the Bar of Montana are to assure the protection of the public and safeguard the justice system. Upon thorough review of your application and background investigation, the Montana Commission on Character and Fitness finds that you have produced satisfactory evidence that you can fulfill these requirements. My records indicate that you have now completed eligibility requirements for admission to the Montana Bar, including submission of qualifying UBE and MPRE scores, have attended the Montana Law Seminar and been certified for character and fitness. Upon payment of the license tax and dues, you will have fulfilled all requirements for admission.

The Montana Bar collects the license tax on behalf of the Supreme Court Clerk, and those fees must be paid before you are able to be sworn-in. I have enclosed a Member Enrollment form that must be submitted with a check payable to the State Bar of Montana or, if you prefer to pay by credit card, you can contact me at 447-2210 or Jill Diveley at 447-2211 to pay by phone.

<u>Fees*</u>	<u>Active Status</u>	<u>Inactive Status</u>
License Tax	25.00	25.00
State Bar Dues	50.00	50.00
Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection	20.00	.0
Disciplinary Counsel Assessment	125.00	.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$220.00</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>

## Bar Admissions Administrator

KATHIE LYNCH  
P.O. Box 577  
Helena, MT 59624  
[klynch@montanabar.org](mailto:klynch@montanabar.org)

Please contact the Supreme Court Clerk's office at (406) 444-3858 to arrange for swearing-in at the Court or another location. Information and a form petition to request authorization for off-site admission are available on the Clerk's website at <http://courts.mt.gov/clerk>. The Montana Rules of Admission require that you present yourself for admission within one year from the date of this notice.

Congratulations again, and we wish you the greatest success in your career as a Montana attorney.

Sincerely,

Kathie Lynch  
Bar Admissions Administrator

EXHIBIT A