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State of Montana

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Bowen Greenwood
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Case Number: PR 23-0232

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

No. PR 23-0232

IN RE PETITION OF Sarah Grams Robison Phillips
FOR PERMISSION TO BE SWORN-IN TO THE STATE
BAR OF MONTANA

P E T I T I O N

Comes now Petitioner, Sarah Grams Robison Phillips, f/k/a Sarah Grams Robison, and respectfully requests permission to be sworn-in to the State Bar of Montana, several years after successfully passing the Montana State Bar Exam and meeting all other then-existing requirements to be sworn in for admission.

Petitioner attests that she successfully passed the July 2012 Montana Bar Examination and furthermore met all then-existing requirements for admission to the Montana Bar, including certification by the Commission on Character and Fitness and payment of the Montana Attorney License Tax and all dues and fees required for admission. The only thing that was not accomplished during this time-period was to be sworn-in to the State Bar of Montana. In further support of this *Petition*, Petitioner states and alleges as follows:

1. Petitioner graduated from the University of Wyoming College of Law in the spring of 2008.

2. Thereafter, Petitioner was admitted to practice law in Colorado in January, 2009, and in Wyoming in July, 2009, after sitting for and passing the state-specific Colorado bar exam in July 2008, and the state-specific Wyoming bar exam in February 2009. Petitioner has been admitted to practice law in both states since this time.

3. Petitioner started the process of seeking admission in Montana in 2011, when her then-existing near-future plans included an anticipated job change and relocation to northeast Wyoming for private practice. At this time, there was no option for admission by motion and no reciprocity, all prospective applicants had to sit for and pass the state-specific Montana bar exam.

4. Petitioner deferred taking the July 2011 and February 2012 exams in order to have more time to study for the exam, and sat for the last administration of the three-day, state-specific Montana bar exam in July 2012. Petitioner was notified in the fall of 2012 that she had passed the Montana bar exam but needed to take the MPRE again due to her score being too old to be considered. Petitioner sat for the MPRE in November of 2012 and received a necessary qualifying score for Montana admission purposes.

5. Petitioner was notified in the spring of 2013 that her MPRE score was sufficient and that she was eligible to be sworn in. Petitioner paid the then-existing fees for bar admission via check to the Montana State bar.

6. Thereafter, Petitioner's future plans changed significantly, and she ended up staying with her employment at the time as a staff attorney and living in southwest Wyoming for several more years while growing her family.

7. Petitioner is now living in Sheridan, Wyoming and is in private practice. She recently joined a firm that has regular clients in Montana and is now seeking to finalize her admission to practice law in Montana.

8. Petitioner is aware that much has changed regarding the rules of admission since she first sought the same in 2011-2012. She is aware of the requirement for the Montana Law Seminar and is willing to sit for the same. She is aware that likely this Court will require an updated character and fitness inquiry and she consents to the same. While Petitioner did pay required fees in 2012, she is aware she will need to pay current admission fees in order to be fully admitted.

9. Petitioner is also aware that there is an option to be admitted via motion that did not previously exist when she first sought admission. However, through this Petition, Petitioner is requesting permission to be sworn in without going through the full process and expense of being admitted via motion, in light of the above stated facts and circumstances.

Respectfully submitted this 26th day of July, 2023.

BY: Sarah GR. Phillips
Petitioner, Sarah Grams Robison Phillips, f/k/a Sarah
Grams Robison