

ORIGINAL

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08/15/2023

Bowen Greenwood
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Case Number: PR 23-0232

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

PR 23-0232

FILED

AUG 15 2023

Bowen Greenwood
Clerk of Supreme Court
State of Montana

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF
SARAH GRAMS ROBISON PHILLIPS

ORDER

Sarah Grams Robison Phillips has petitioned the Court to waive the requirement that applicants for admission to the State Bar of Montana be sworn in within one year after satisfying the requirements for admission. Rule X.B, Rules of Admission of Montana, provides “[i]f an applicant does not appear for admission to the State Bar of Montana within one year after successfully meeting the requirements for admission, the applicant’s application will be terminated and the applicant may be admitted only after reapplication as provided in these Rules.”

Phillips took and passed the Montana bar examination¹ and the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam in 2012, and paid her initial license fees and bar dues. However, she was not sworn in and admitted at that time. As her petition states, her plans changed significantly, and admission to the Montana bar was not then necessary to advance her career. However, she has recently moved and joined a firm that has Montana clients, and she desires to finalize her admission to the State Bar of Montana.

Phillips acknowledges that she must undergo a character and fitness examination, attend the Montana Law seminar, and satisfy other admission requirements, but that waiver will save her the time and expense of completing the admission on motion process. Good cause appearing,

IT IS ORDERED that the petition of Sarah Grams Robison Phillips to waive the one-year requirement under Rule X.B, Rules of Admission of Montana, for purposes of

¹ This examination was prior to the Court’s adoption of the Uniform Bar Examination.

completing the admission process is GRANTED. Phillips must also satisfy all other requirements for admission, including as follows.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Phillips shall submit to an investigation conducted by the Commission on Character and Fitness, which, in its discretion, may be a limited investigation. Phillips shall comply with the character and fitness process and timely produce information and documentation as requested by the Commission. The Commission will investigate Phillip's character and fitness in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Commission on Character and Fitness. The Commission will advise the Court whether Phillips has been certified, conditionally certified, or denied certification. If the Commission denies certification, the Commission will issue written findings of fact, conclusions of law, and a decision pursuant to Section 5(c)(6) of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission on Character and Fitness. If Phillips is certified or conditionally certified by the Commission on Character and Fitness, Phillips shall be admitted to the active practice of law in Montana upon payment of appropriate dues and fees and penalties to the State Bar of Montana.

The Clerk shall mail a copy of this order to Petitioner and to the Administrator of the Board of Bar Examiners at the State Bar of Montana.

DATED this 15th day of August, 2023.



Chief Justice



James Joseph Gannon

Lansie P. Gannon

Angela Gannon

Deborah M. Gannon

Justices