

THE RULES COMMITTEE ON CIVIL PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE AND
THE RULES COMMITTEE ON THE LEGAL PROFESSION SEEK
COMMENTS FROM THE BENCH, THE BAR AND THE PUBLIC ON THE
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO
**RULES 2 AND 46 OF THE
MISSISSIPPI RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE**

*******PLEASE NOTE*******

These proposed amendments are made in conjunction with the proposed amendments to Rules 5.5 and 8.5 of the Mississippi Rules of Professional Conduct.

Comments should be filed with the Clerk of the Supreme Court,
Gartin Justice Building, P.O. Box 249, Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0249.

Deadline: October 3, 2011.

~~ADMISSION, WITHDRAWAL, AND DISCIPLINE OF ATTORNEYS~~

**RULE 46. LICENSE REQUIRED TO PRACTICE LAW IN MISSISSIPPI;
UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW PROHIBITED; ADMISSION PRO
HAC VICE; MILITARY LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; PRO BONO
PUBLICUS ATTORNEYS**

~~(a) — **Admission to Practice.** Attorneys who have not been admitted to practice in the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeals shall not be permitted to argue orally, or file briefs or any paper in any cause in either Court. Upon presentation to the clerk of a certified copy of the order of a trial court admitting an attorney to practice in this state, together with a certificate of good standing from the Executive Director of the Mississippi Bar, the clerk may admit such attorneys to practice before the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals and administer the oath to each such attorney.~~

- (1) **Who May Practice Law in Mississippi.** A person who is duly licensed to practice law in this state by the Mississippi Supreme Court and who is an active member of The Mississippi Bar may practice law in Mississippi.
- (2) **Definition of the Practice of Law.** The practice of law is ministering to the legal needs of another person and applying legal principles and judgment to the circumstances or objectives of that person. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - (a) Holding oneself out as, representing oneself to be, or designating oneself as an attorney, lawyer, counselor, advisor, or in any other capacity which directly or indirectly represents that such person is either qualified or capable of performing or is engaged in the business or activity of performing any act constituting the practice of law as herein defined; and/or leading others to believe that one is authorized to practice law in Mississippi.
 - (b) Undertaking to give advice or instruction to another in any matter involving the application of legal principles to facts, purposes, or desires, or advising or counseling another with respect to their legal rights or responsibilities or with regard to any matter involving the application of legal principles to the rights, duties, obligations, or liabilities of another.
 - (c) Undertaking to prepare, write or dictate for another documents or instruments of any character requiring knowledge of legal principles or legal documents or agreements involving or affecting the legal rights of a person. The terms “documents” or “instruments” include, but are not limited to, bills of sale, deeds of conveyance, deeds of trust, mortgages, contracts, last wills and testaments, easements, notes, releases, satisfactions, leases, options, articles of incorporation and other corporate documents, articles of organization and other limited liability company documents, partnership agreements, affidavits, prenuptial agreements, trusts, family settlement agreements, powers of attorney and like or similar instruments, and pleadings and any other papers incident to legal actions and special proceedings.
 - (d) Certifying or opining concerning titles to real estate other than such person’s own or in which such person may own an interest.
 - (e) Undertaking to represent the interest of another before any tribunal whether judicial, administrative, executive, or in a formal dispute resolution process.
 - (f) Giving advice or counsel to any person, or representing or purporting to represent the interest of any person, in a transaction in which an interest in property is transferred where the advice or counsel, or the representation or purported representation, involves the preparation, evaluation, or interpretation of documents related to such transaction or to implement such transaction or the evaluation or interpretation of procedures to implement such transaction where such transaction, documents, or procedures affect the legal rights, obligations, liabilities, or interests of such person.
 - (g) Undertaking to close a transaction involving the transfer of an interest in property via bill of sale, deed of conveyance, deed of trust, mortgage, contract or lease or involving the holding, receiving or disbursing the funds of a third person.

(h) Engaging in any other act which may indicate an occurrence of the authorized practice of law in the state of Mississippi as established by case law, statute, court rule, ruling, or other authority.

(3) **Exceptions.** Notwithstanding the provisions of subparts (1) or (2) hereof, a license to practice law and active membership in The Mississippi Bar are not required for a person engaged in any of the following activities in Mississippi, so long as (i) one is not holding oneself out as, representing oneself to be, or designating oneself as an attorney or lawyer and/or is not leading others to believe that one is authorized to practice law in Mississippi, and (ii) the Supreme Court of the State of Mississippi has not by rule or by published opinion determined that the activity constitutes the unlicensed or unauthorized practice of law:

(a) Acting as a lay representative authorized by administrative agencies or in administrative hearings solely before such agency or hearing where (i) such services are confined to representation before such a forum or other conduct reasonably ancillary to such representation; and (ii) such conduct is authorized by statute or the department or agency has adopted a rule expressly permitting and regulating such practice.

(b) Providing clerical assistance to another to complete a form provided by a court for the protection from abuse, harassment, and violence when no fee is charged to do so.

(c) Acting as a lobbyist as authorized by Section 5-8-1, et seq., of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended.

(d) Serving in a neutral capacity as a clerk or a court employee responding to requests for general information from the public.

(e) Public officials acting within the scope of their official duties.

(f) Acting as a non-lawyer advocate under the supervision of a court of the State of Mississippi.

(g) Acting as a victim service representative acting within the scope of the statutes of the State of Mississippi.

(h) Serving in a neutral capacity or as a decision maker, but not as an advocate, in the role of mediator, arbitrator, conciliator or facilitator of dispute resolution.

(i) Participation as decision maker or advocate in labor negotiations, arbitrations, mediations or conciliations arising under collective bargaining rights or agreements.

(j) A non-lawyer entity's or organization's acting through lawyers otherwise authorized to practice law in Mississippi, to the extent that such lawyers perform *pro bono* legal services for non-profit organizations, low-income clients, or otherwise in the public interest.

(k) Military legal assistance provided pursuant to Rule 46, Mississippi Rules of Appellate Procedure.

- (l) Pro Bono Publicus assistance provided pursuant to Rule 46, Mississippi Rules of Appellate Procedure.
- (m) Except entities insuring or guaranteeing titles to real estate, an entity or organization in the business of insurance guarantee or indemnity, or the sale of insurance or financial products permitted to be offered by insurance companies, or a self-insured entity or organization, or any employee or contractor of any of the foregoing entities or organizations when conducting their customary insurance business, which includes but is not limited to: (1) investigating or adjusting claims against it or its insured; (2) negotiating with other persons or entities; (3) conducting loss control functions; (4) underwriting business; (5) selling insurance or financial products permitted to be offered by insurance companies or providing advice and counsel with respect to such insurance or products; (6) the preparation of releases or settlement agreements; (7) using a lawyer employee or captive lawyer admitted to the bar in Mississippi or otherwise permitted to practice law in Mississippi to represent its principal or corporate affiliate, or an insured or noninsured for whom a defense is provided; and (8) any act required of an insurer by law.
- (n) Acting as a real estate broker or real estate salesperson as authorized by Section 73-35-1, et seq., of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, including without limitation (i) the preparation of a contract for the sale of real estate for which the broker or salesperson is the listing or selling agent or (ii) receiving, holding and disbursing funds comprising earnest money under a contract for the sale of real estate or as part of the closing of a transaction involving the transfer of an interest in real estate for which the broker or salesperson is the listing or selling agent.
- (o) A lender making a loan and undertaking any necessary steps to close the loan transaction, including the preparation and negotiation of any document or instrument to which the lender is a party.
- (p) Any state or federally chartered financial institution or affiliate of such an institution, when engaging in an activity that is within its authority under applicable state or federal law, including any employee providing services for it in connection with that activity;
- (q) A licensed dealer of motor vehicles, farm equipment, all-terrain vehicles, airplanes, motorcycles, boats, personal watercraft or other vehicles for which certificates of title are issued to provide proof of ownership and perfection of liens selling a vehicle and undertaking any necessary steps to close the transaction involving the sale of the vehicle and/or the making of a loan secured by the vehicle sold by the dealer, including the preparation and negotiation of documents related to the sale and/or conveyance of the vehicle to which the dealer is a party and/or related to the loan or security for the loan to which the dealer is a party.
- (r) A licensed manufactured home dealer selling a manufactured home and undertaking any necessary steps to close the transaction involving the sale of the

manufactured home and/or the making of a loan secured by the manufactured home sold by the dealer, including the preparation and negotiation of documents related to the sale and/or conveyance of the manufactured home to which the dealer is a party and/or related to the loan or security for the loan to which the dealer is a party.

- (s) A person with a license certifying his or her qualifications as a certified public accountant by the State Board of Public Accountancy practicing within the scope of practice allowed by the State Board of Public Accountancy under Section 73-33-1, et seq., of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, or performing such services under the supervision of a professional holding such a license, provided that the Supreme Court has not determined by rule or by published opinion that the activity constitutes the unlicensed or unauthorized practice of law.
- (t) A person with a license certifying his or her qualifications as an architect by the State Board of Architecture practicing within the scope of practice allowed by the State Board of Architecture under Section 73-1-1, et seq., of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, including without limitation the preparation of construction contracts, subcontracts for a construction project, contracts for architectural services, bonds for a construction project or other instruments related to construction projects on behalf of a party to the instrument when the party is one to whom the architect is providing contractual services as an architect, or performing such services under the supervision of a professional holding such a license, provided that the Supreme Court has not determined by rule or by published opinion that the activity constitutes the unlicensed or unauthorized practice of law.
- (u) A Certified Petroleum Landman or a Registered Petroleum Landman certified by the American Association of Petroleum Landmen or a Registered Professional Geologist drafting, writing, dictating or otherwise preparing any instruments affecting oil, gas or other minerals on behalf of a party to the instrument when the party is one to whom the landman or geologist is providing contractual services as a landman or geologist.
- (v) A Registered Forester practicing within the scope of practice allowed by the State Board of Registration for Foresters under Section 73-36-1, et seq., of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, including without limitation drafting, writing, dictating or otherwise preparing any instruments affecting timber buying, logging contracting, timber or rights in timber on behalf of a party to the instrument when the party is one to whom the forester is providing contractual services as a forester, or performing such services under the supervision of a Registered Forester, provided that the Supreme Court has not determined by rule or by published opinion that the activity constitutes the unlicensed or unauthorized practice of law.

- (w) A Professional Engineer practicing within the scope of practice allowed by the Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors under Section 73-13-1, et seq., of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, including without limitation drafting, writing, dictating or otherwise preparing any instrument relating to an engineering project on behalf of a party to the instrument when the party is one to whom the engineer is providing contractual services as an engineer for the engineering project, including without limitation the preparation of construction contracts, subcontracts for a construction project, contracts for engineering services, bonds for a construction project or other instruments related to construction projects on behalf of a party to the instrument when the party is one to whom the engineer is providing contractual services as an engineer, or performing such services under the supervision of a Professional Engineer, provided that the Supreme Court has not determined by rule or by published opinion that the activity constitutes the unlicensed or unauthorized practice of law.
- (x) A Professional Surveyor practicing within the scope of practice allowed by the Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors under Section 73-13-1, et seq., of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, including without limitation drafting, writing, dictating or otherwise preparing any plat for a condominium or subdivision of real estate or plat of survey on behalf of a party to the instrument when the party is one to whom the surveyor is providing contractual services as a surveyor, or performing such services under the supervision of a Professional Surveyor, provided that the Supreme Court has not determined by rule or by published opinion that the activity constitutes the unlicensed or unauthorized practice of law.
- (y) Making abstract or certifying titles to real estate by any title guaranty companies incorporated under the laws of this state where it acts through some person as agent, authorized under the laws of the State of Mississippi to practice law, and making or certifying to abstracts of title to real estate by any abstract company chartered under the laws of the State of Mississippi with a paid-up capital of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) through the president, secretary or other principal officer of such company.
- (z) Pro se representation by any person as authorized by Article 3, Section 25 of the Mississippi Constitution and the preparation, writing or dictating of any document or instrument by a party to such document or instrument.
- (aa) Representation of an entity by a lawyer employee or captive lawyer admitted to the bar in Mississippi or otherwise permitted to practice law in Mississippi under Rule 46 or representation by such lawyer of any corporate affiliate of said entity.
- (bb) Representation by an employee or principal of a business entity acting solely for the entity in Justice Court for the collection of a debt owed to the entity or for the eviction of a tenant from property of the entity.

- (cc) A lawyer not admitted to practice in Mississippi's providing legal services in Mississippi as authorized by the provisions of Rule 5.5, Mississippi Rules of Professional Conduct, as amended.
- (dd) Activities which are preempted by federal law or procedure.
- (4) **Unauthorized Practice of Law Prohibited.** Except as provided herein, a person shall not engage in the practice of law in Mississippi, or attempt to do so, or make a representation that he or she is authorized to do so, unless the person is currently licensed to practice law in Mississippi by the Mississippi Supreme Court and is an active member of The Mississippi Bar. Any person violating this Rule shall be subject to the provisions of Section 97-23-43 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended. The Mississippi Bar, or its designated representatives, shall have the right to take appropriate action to enforce the provisions of this rule under the provisions of Miss. Code Ann. § 73-51-1 (1989).
- (5) **Governmental Agencies.** Nothing in this Rule shall affect the ability of a governmental agency and/or its employees to carry out its responsibilities as provided by law.
- (6) **Admission of Foreign Attorneys *Pro Hac Vice***
 - (a) *Terminology.*
 - i. "Administrative agency" shall include any agency, department, board or commission of the State of Mississippi, or any county, city, public school district or other political subdivision of the State of Mississippi.
 - ii. "Appearance" shall include the appending or allowing the appending of the foreign attorney's name on any pleading or other paper filed or served, or appearing personally before a court or administrative agency or participating in a deposition or other proceeding in which testimony is given. Presentation of uncontested matters to administrative agencies does not constitute appearance as the term is used in this Rule 46**(b)(6)**. Appearance of a foreign attorney shall commence with the first appearance and continue until final determination or until an order permitting the foreign attorney to withdraw has been issued.
 - iii. "General practice of law" shall be deemed to include, when applied to a foreign attorney, appearances by the foreign attorney in more than five (5) separate unrelated causes or other matters before the courts or administrative agencies of this state within the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the appearance in question.
 - iv. "Foreign attorney" shall mean an attorney licensed to practice law and in good standing in another state, the District of Columbia, or other American jurisdiction, but not licensed and in good standing to practice law in Mississippi.
 - v. "Local attorney" shall mean an attorney who is licensed and in good standing to practice law in Mississippi.

(b) *Appearance of a Foreign Attorney Pro Hac Vice Permitted.* A foreign attorney shall not appear in any cause except as allowed pro hac vice under this Rule 46(b)(6). A foreign who is of good moral character and familiar with the ethics, principles, practices, customs, and usages of the legal profession in this state, may, subject to the provisions of this in this Rule 46(b)(6), appear as counsel pro hac vice in a particular cause before any court or administrative agency in this state upon compliance with the conditions stated in this subdivision.

(c) *Foreign Attorney Appearing Pro Hac Vice Subject to Local Jurisdiction.* A foreign attorney appearing as counsel pro hac vice before any court or administrative agency of this state shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the courts of this state in any matter arising out of the attorney's conduct in such proceedings. The foreign attorney shall study and comply with the standards of professional conduct required of members of the Mississippi Bar and shall be subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of the courts of this state, of the disciplinary tribunals of the Mississippi Bar, and of the Mississippi Board of Bar Admissions with respect to any acts occurring during the course of such appearance. A foreign attorney who has been found in an appropriate disciplinary proceeding to have advertised services in violation of Rule 7.2 of the Mississippi Rules of Professional Conduct, or who is employed by or is a member of a firm which has been so found, shall not be granted leave to appear pro hac vice before the courts or administrative agencies of this state.

(d) *Association of Local Attorney.* No foreign attorney may appear pro hac vice before any court or administrative agency of this state unless the foreign attorney has associated in that cause a local attorney. The name of the associated local attorney shall appear on all notices, orders, pleadings, and other papers filed in the cause. The local attorney shall personally appear and participate in all trials, and, unless specifically excused from such appearance by the court or administrative agency, in all pretrial conferences, hearings, other proceedings conducted in open court and all depositions or other proceedings in which testimony is given in this state. By associating with a foreign attorney in a particular cause, the local counsel accepts joint and several responsibility with such foreign attorney to the client, to opposing parties and counsel, and to the court or administrative agency in all matters arising from that particular cause.

(e) *Verified Application, Clerk's Statement and Filing Fees.* A foreign attorney desiring to appear pro hac vice before any court or administrative agency of this state shall file with the subject court or administrative agency and with the Clerk of the Supreme Court (1) a verified application and (2) a statement obtained from the Clerk of the Supreme Court indicating all causes or other matters in which the foreign attorney previously requested leave to appear as counsel pro hac vice showing the date and disposition of each request. Such application and statement shall be accompanied by a certificate of service on all parties in accordance with the Mississippi Rules of Civil Procedure.

The verified application shall contain the following information:

- i. the name of the court or administrative agency before which the foreign attorney desires to appear as counsel *pro hac vice*;
- ii. the style of the cause in which the foreign attorney desires to appear;
- iii. the full name, residence address, office address, voice and facsimile telephone numbers, and e-mail address, if any, of the foreign attorney;
- iv. each jurisdiction in which the foreign attorney has been admitted and the date of admission
- v. a statement that the foreign attorney: (a) does not maintain an office within this state, or that the foreign attorney is a member of a firm which maintains an office or offices within this state which are staffed, full time, by an attorney or attorneys who are licensed to practice in this state and (b) has not engaged in the general practice of law in this state without being properly admitted and licensed to practice law in this state;
- vi. a statement that the foreign attorney is currently licensed in good standing to practice law in each jurisdiction in which the foreign attorney has been admitted or, if the foreign attorney is not currently licensed in good standing to practice law in any jurisdiction in which the foreign attorney has previously been admitted, a full explanation of circumstances;
- vii. a statement that the foreign attorney is not currently suspended or disbarred by any jurisdiction in which the foreign attorney has been admitted;
- viii. a statement of whether or not the foreign attorney has been the subject of disciplinary action by the bar or courts of any jurisdiction during the preceding five (5) years, and, if so, a full explanation of the circumstances;
- ix. a statement that the foreign attorney is of good moral character and familiar with the ethics, principles, practices, customs, and usages of the legal profession in this state;
- x. the style and number of each cause, including the name of the court or administrative agency, in which the foreign attorney has appeared as counsel *pro hac vice* within this state within the immediately preceding 12 months, is presently appearing as counsel *pro hac vice*, or has requested admission to appear as counsel *pro hac vice*;
- xi. a statement that, unless permitted to withdraw by order of the court or administrative agency, the foreign attorney will continue to represent the client in the cause until the final determination of the cause, and that, with reference to all matters incident to such cause, the foreign attorney consents to the jurisdiction of the courts of the State of Mississippi, of the disciplinary tribunals of the Mississippi Bar, and of the Mississippi Board of Bar Admissions in all respects as if the foreign attorney were a regularly admitted and licensed member of the Mississippi Bar; xii. the name and office address of the member or members in good standing of the Mississippi Bar whom the

foreign attorney has associated in the particular cause; and

xii. the name and office address of the member of members in good standing of the Mississippi Bar whom the foreign attorney has associated in the particular cause; and

xiii. the verified application of the foreign attorney for appearance *pro hac vice* shall also be signed by the associated local attorney, certifying the local attorney's agreement to be associated by the foreign attorney in the particular cause.

Simultaneously with the filing of the application, the foreign attorney shall pay to The Mississippi Bar the sum of \$200 which will be used by the Bar to provide legal services to the indigent, and shall certify to the court or agency and to the Clerk of the Supreme Court that such payment has been made, and shall pay to the Clerk of the Supreme Court the customary miscellaneous docket fee as provided in Miss. Code Ann. § 25-7-3. In cases involving indigent clients, the court or agency may waive the filing fees for good cause shown.

(f) *Proceedings on Application of Foreign Attorney to Appear as Counsel Pro Hac Vice.* No hearing on an application to appear *pro hac vice* is required except upon motion of a party or where the court considers such a hearing to be desirable. Upon motion of a party opposing such appearance, or on the court's motion, a hearing may, in the discretion of the judge, be held to determine whether the foreign attorney has complied with Rule 46~~(b)~~**(6)**.

(g) *Order Authorizing Appearance.* A foreign attorney shall not appear as counsel *pro hac vice* before any court or administrative agency until the foreign attorney certifies to the court or administrative agency that the foreign attorney has provided a copy of the order authorizing such appearance to the Clerk of the Supreme Court **and to The Mississippi Bar.**

(h) *Prohibition of General Practice of Law in Mississippi Under Pro Hac Vice Privilege.*

i. **General Prohibition.** No foreign attorney shall appear as counsel *pro hac vice* before any court or administrative agency of this state if the foreign attorney: (a) maintains an office within this state, unless the foreign attorney is a member of a firm which maintains an office or offices within this state which are staffed, full time, by an attorney or attorneys who are licensed to practice in this state or (b) has engaged in the general practice of law in this state without being properly admitted and licensed to practice law in this state.

ii. **General Practice .** Appearances by a foreign attorney before the courts or administrative agencies of this state in more than five (5) separate unrelated causes or other matters within the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the appearance in question shall be deemed the general practice of law in this state, which may be performed only by an attorney properly admitted and in good standing as a member of

the Mississippi Bar. Appearance of a foreign attorney shall commence with the first appearance and continue until final determination on the merits or until the foreign attorney has obtained an order permitting him to withdraw.

iii. Exception for Law Teachers. The limitations in this subdivision ~~(b)(8)(6)(h)~~ shall not apply to a foreign attorney employed full-time as a law school teacher by a law school located in this state, provided that such law teacher must be in good standing in the jurisdictions in which the law teacher is admitted and must associate a local attorney in order to appear.

(i) *Suspension or Disbarment Terminates Permission to Appear Pro Hac Vice.*

i. Foreign Attorney. Permission for a foreign attorney to appear pro hac vice under the provisions of this rule shall terminate upon such attorney's suspension or disbarment in any jurisdiction in which the foreign attorney has been admitted. The foreign attorney shall have the duty to promptly report to the court or administrative agency of this state before which the foreign attorney is appearing any disciplinary action which has been taken in any other jurisdiction.

ii. Local Attorney. In the event that the local attorney associated by a foreign attorney in a particular case is suspended, disbarred or incapacitated by virtue of health or otherwise from the practice of law in the State of Mississippi, the foreign attorney shall, before proceeding further in the pending cause, associate a new local attorney who is in good standing to practice law in this state and shall file an amendment to the verified application required by subdivision ~~(b)(5)(6)(e)~~.

(j) *Exclusions.*

i. Appearance *Pro Se*. Nothing in this rule shall be construed to prohibit any attorney from appearing before any court or administrative agency of this state on the attorney's own behalf in any civil or criminal matter.

ii. United States Attorneys. Attorneys representing the United States government in matters before the courts or administrative agencies of this state shall be permitted to appear on behalf of the United States government and to represent its interest in any matter in which the United States government is interested without the association of local counsel.

(k) *Enforcement.*

i. By Clerks and Filing Officers. No court clerk or filing officer of any administrative agency of this state shall accept or file any pleadings or other papers from a foreign attorney who has not complied with the requirements of this rule. Any pleadings or other papers filed in violation of this rule shall be stricken from the record upon the motion of any party or by the court or administrative agency sua sponte. A request for the issuance of a subpoena pursuant to Rule 45(a)(3) of the Rules of Civil Procedure is not subject to this Rule.

ii. By Courts and Administrative Agencies. The courts and administrative agencies of this state shall have the duty and authority to enforce the provisions of this rule by denying violators the right to appear. If a foreign attorney engages in professional misconduct during the course of a special appearance, the judge or chief officer of the administrative agency before which the foreign attorney is appearing may revoke permission to appear pro hac vice and may cite the foreign attorney for contempt. In addition, the judge or administrative officer shall refer the matter to the disciplinary counsel of the Mississippi Bar for appropriate action by the disciplinary tribunal.

(l) *Violation.* Violation of this rule is deemed to be the unlawful practice of law. The Mississippi Bar, or its designated representatives, shall have the right to take appropriate action to enforce the provisions of this rule under the provisions **of Rule 46** and of Miss. Code Ann. § 73-51-1 (1989).

(m) *Cumulative Enforcement.* Provisions of this rule shall be cumulative with all other statutes and rules providing remedies against the unauthorized practice of law within the State of Mississippi.

~~(e) — **Withdrawal.** An attorney who appears before the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeals in an appeal or other proceeding may withdraw from the representation only with the approval of the appropriate court. If an attorney desires to withdraw, the attorney shall file a motion giving the attorney's reasons for desiring to withdraw and requesting approval of the appropriate court. Such motion shall be served upon the attorney's client and upon all parties. The motion shall be accompanied by an appearance form of substitute counsel or a signed statement by the client indicating that the client agrees to proceed *pro se*, or shall explain why neither can be obtained.~~

~~(d) — **Disciplinary Power of the Court Over Attorneys.** Every petition, motion, brief, or other paper filed by a party represented by an attorney shall be signed by at least one attorney of record in the attorney's individual name, whose address shall be stated. The appellate court may, after reasonable notice and an opportunity to show cause to the contrary, and after hearing, if requested by the attorney, take any appropriate disciplinary action against any attorney who practices before it for conduct unbecoming a member of the bar, or for failure to comply with these rules or any order of the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeals, or for filing any frivolous petition, motion, brief, or other paper.~~

(7) **Military Legal Assistance Program**

(a) A lawyer admitted to the practice of law in a state or territory of the United States, other than Mississippi, who is serving in or employed by the armed services as an attorney and is otherwise authorized to provide legal assistance pursuant to 10 U.S. Code § 1044, may apply to the Supreme Court for a certificate as a Registered Military Legal Assistance Attorney in Mississippi to represent clients eligible for legal assistance in the courts and tribunals of this state while the lawyer is employed, stationed, or assigned within Mississippi.

(b) Each applicant for a Registered Military Legal Assistance Attorney Certificate shall:

i. file with the clerk of the Supreme Court an application, under oath, upon a form furnished by the clerk;

ii. furnish a certificate, signed by the presiding judge of the court of last resort, or other appropriate official of the jurisdiction in which the applicant is admitted to practice law, stating that the applicant is licensed to practice law and is an active member in good standing of the bar of such jurisdiction;

iii. file an affidavit, upon a form furnished by the clerk of the Supreme Court, from the commanding officer, staff judge advocate or chief legal officer of the military base in Mississippi where the applicant is employed, stationed, or assigned, attesting to the fact that the applicant is serving as a lawyer to provide legal services exclusively for the military, that the nature of the applicant's employment or service conforms to the requirements of this rule, and that the commanding officer, staff judge advocate or chief legal officer, or his or her successor, shall notify the clerk of the Supreme Court immediately upon the termination of the applicant's employment or service at the military base.

(c) Upon a finding by the clerk of the Supreme Court that the applicant has produced evidence sufficient to satisfy the clerk that the applicant is a person of honest demeanor and good moral character who possesses the requisite fitness to perform the obligations and responsibilities of a practicing attorney at law and satisfies all other requirements of this rule, the clerk shall notify the applicant that he or she is eligible to be issued a Registered Military Legal Assistance Attorney Certificate. After the applicant has taken and subscribed to the oaths required of attorneys at law, the clerk shall issue to the applicant a Military Legal Assistance Attorney Certificate, which shall entitle the applicant to represent clients eligible for legal assistance in the courts and tribunals of this state solely as provided in this rule. **The clerk shall provide a copy of the Military Legal Assistance Attorney Certificate to The Mississippi Bar.**

(d) The practice of a lawyer under this rule shall be subject to the limitations and restrictions of 10 U.S.C. § 1044 and the regulations of that lawyer's military service and shall be further limited to: (i) adoptions, (ii) guardianships, (iii) name changes, (iv) divorces, (v) paternity matters, (vi) child custody, visitation, child and spousal support, (vii) landlord-tenant disputes on behalf of tenants, (viii) consumer advocacy cases involving alleged breaches of contract or warranties, repossession, or fraud, (ix) garnishment defenses, (x) probate, (xi) enforcement of rights under the Service members Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. § 501 et seq.), (xii) enforcement of rights under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, 38 U.S.C. § 4301 et seq., and (xiii) such other cases within the discretion of the court or tribunal before which the matter is pending.

(e) All pleadings filed by a legal assistance attorney shall cite this rule, and include the name, complete address and telephone number of the military legal office representing the client, and the name, grade and armed service of the lawyer registered under this rule providing representation.

(f) No lawyer registered under this rule shall (a) undertake to represent any person other than an eligible legal assistance client before a court or tribunal of this state, (b) offer to provide legal services in this state to any person other than as authorized by his or her military service, or (c) hold himself or herself out in this state to be authorized to provide legal services to any person other than as authorized by his or her military service.

(g) Representing clients eligible for legal assistance in the courts or tribunals of this state under this rule shall be deemed the practice of law and shall subject the lawyer to all rules governing the practice of law in Mississippi, including the Mississippi Rules of Professional Conduct and the Rules of Discipline. Jurisdiction of the Mississippi Bar shall continue whether or not the lawyer retains the Registered Military Legal Assistance Attorney Certificate and irrespective of the lawyer's presence in Mississippi.

(h) Each person receiving a Military Legal Assistance Attorney Certificate shall be registered with the Mississippi Bar as an active member on the basis of that certificate and shall be subject to the same membership obligations as other active members of the Mississippi Bar, other than the payment of dues and assessments and Continuing Legal Education requirements. A lawyer registered under this rule shall use as his or her address of record with the Mississippi Bar, the military address in Mississippi of the commanding officer, staff judge advocate or chief legal officer which filed the affidavit on the lawyer's behalf.

(i) Each person issued a Military Legal Assistance Attorney Certificate shall promptly report to the Mississippi Bar any changes in employment or military service, any change in bar membership status in any state or territory of the United States, or the District of Columbia where the applicant has been admitted to the practice of law, or the imposition of any disciplinary sanction in a state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia or by any federal court or agency where the applicant has been admitted to the practice of law.

(j) The limited authority to practice law which may be granted under this rule shall be automatically terminated when (a) the lawyer is no longer employed, stationed, or assigned at the military base in Mississippi from which the affidavit required by this rule was filed, (b) the lawyer has been admitted to the practice of law in this state by examination or pursuant to any other provision of the Rules Governing Admission to the Mississippi Bar, (c) the lawyer fails to comply with any provision of this rule, (d) the lawyer fails to maintain current good standing as an active member of a bar in at least one state or territory of the United States other than Mississippi, or (e) when suspended or disbarred for disciplinary reasons in any state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia or by any federal court or agency where the lawyer has been

admitted to the practice of law.

(8) Pro Bono Publicus Attorneys.

(a) *Terminology.*

i. A "pro bono publicus attorney" is: (a) an inactive member of the Mississippi Bar who is not otherwise engaged in the practice of law; or (b) an attorney licensed in a state other than Mississippi who:

will provide free legal services under the supervision of a qualified legal services provider as defined in this rule; is licensed to practice law in at least one state and has no record of public discipline for professional misconduct imposed at any time within the past fifteen years and who did not resign or retire from the practice of law with disciplinary charges pending or in lieu of discipline; and

neither asks for nor receives personal compensation of any kind for the legal services rendered under this rule.

ii. A "qualified legal services provider" for the purposes of this rule is a not-for-profit legal aid organization that is approved by the Mississippi Bar as set forth in this rule. A legal aid organization seeking approval from the Mississippi Bar for purposes of this rule shall file a petition with the Office of General Counsel of the Mississippi Bar certifying that it is a not-for-profit organization and specifically stating:

(A) the structure of the organization and whether it accepts funds from its clients;

(B) the major sources of funds used by the organization;

(C) the criteria used to determine potential clients' eligibility for legal services performed by the organization;

(D) the types of legal and non-legal services performed by the organization;

(E) the names of all members of the Mississippi Bar who are employed by the organization or who regularly perform legal work for the organization; and

(F) the existence of professional liability insurance that will cover the pro bono publicus attorney.

(b) *Limitations.*

i. Except for the acts and services performed in association with a qualified legal services provider, a pro bono publicus attorney shall not otherwise engage in the active practice of law.

ii. The pro bono publicus attorney shall not be paid by the qualified legal services provider, but the qualified legal services provider may reimburse the pro bono publicus attorney for actual expenses incurred while rendering services. The qualified legal services provider shall be entitled to receive any court-awarded attorneys fees for representation rendered by the pro bono publicus attorney. Collection of any money from the client, including but not limited to reimbursements for expenses incurred, shall be handled exclusively by and through the qualified legal services provider.

iii. An attorney who complies with this rule permitting practice as a pro bono publicus attorney shall not be deemed to be engaged in the unauthorized practice of law as defined by **Rule 46**, Miss. Code Ann. § 73-3-55 (1972, as amended), the Mississippi Rules of Professional Conduct and pertinent case law.

(c) *Duties of pro bono publicus attorney.*

Before providing services under the authority of this rule, an attorney shall first present to the Office of General Counsel of the Mississippi Bar an affidavit containing the following:

i. the attorney's full name, firm name, residence address, principal business address, telephone numbers, jurisdiction or jurisdictions in which the attorney is admitted, and bar identification numbers;

ii. affirmation that the attorney is an inactive member of the Mississippi Bar or is duly licensed and in good standing and authorized to practice law in at least one state and has no record of public discipline for professional misconduct imposed at any time within the past fifteen years and did not resign or retire from the practice of law with disciplinary charges pending or in lieu of discipline;

iii. affirmation that in performing all services under the authorization of this rule, the attorney will be acting as a volunteer for a qualified legal services provider;

iv. affirmation that all services to be performed will be at no charge or expense to the client;

v. affirmation that the attorney will abide by the Mississippi Rules of Professional Conduct and consents to the jurisdiction of the State of Mississippi for disciplinary action; and

vi. affirmation that the attorney will not undertake to represent any person other than an eligible legal assistance client for a qualified legal services provider, shall not offer to provide legal assistance in this State to any person or for any matter other than through a qualified legal services provider, and shall not hold himself or herself out in this State to be authorized to provide legal services to any person or for any matter other than through a qualified legal services provider.

(d) **Certificate.**

Each person receiving a Pro Bono Publicus Attorney Certificate from the Office of General Counsel for The Mississippi Bar shall be registered with the Mississippi Bar as a Pro Bono Publicus Attorney but shall not be required to pay dues or assessments or meet Continuing Legal Education requirements. Each person issued a Pro Bono Publicus Attorney Certificate shall promptly report to The Mississippi Bar any changes in employment, address, bar membership status in any state or territory of the United States, or the District of Columbia where the applicant has been admitted to the practice of law, or the imposition of any disciplinary sanction in a state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia or by any federal court or agency where the applicant has been admitted to the practice of law.

RULE 2. PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE WITH RULES; ATTORNEYS WHO APPEAR BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT OR COURT OF APPEALS; SUSPENSION OF RULES

(a) **Dismissal of Appeal.**

(1) *Mandatory Dismissal.* An appeal shall be dismissed if the notice of appeal was not timely filed pursuant to Rules 4 or 5.

(2) *Discretionary Dismissal.* An appeal may be dismissed upon motion of a party or on motion of the appropriate appellate court (i) when the court determines that there is an obvious failure to prosecute an appeal; or (ii) when a party fails to comply substantially with these rules. When either court, on its own motion or on motion of a party, determines that dismissal may be warranted under this Rule 2(a)(2), the clerk of the Supreme Court shall give written notice to the party in default, apprising the party of the nature of the deficiency. If the party in default fails to correct the deficiency within fourteen (14) days after notification, the appeal shall be dismissed by the clerk of the Supreme Court. The attorney for the party in default has the burden to correct promptly any deficiency or to see that the default is corrected by the appropriate official. Motions for additional time in which to file briefs will not be entertained after the notice of the deficiency has issued.

(b) **Other Sanctions.** The Supreme Court or the Court of Appeals may, after reasonable notice given by the clerk of the Supreme Court and opportunity to show cause to the contrary, and after hearing, if requested, impose such sanctions as may be appropriate on any party, court reporter, trial court clerk, or attorney who fails to comply with these rules or any order issued pursuant to these rules. Trial court judges have concurrent jurisdiction to sanction any party, court reporter, trial court clerk, or attorney

who fails to comply with Rules 3, 10, and 11. A copy of any such sanction order shall be served on the clerk of the Supreme Court and may be reviewed by the Supreme Court for abuse of discretion.

(c) **Admission to Practice.** Attorneys who have not been admitted to practice in the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeals shall not be permitted to argue orally, or file briefs or any paper in any cause in either Court. Upon presentation to the clerk of a certified copy of the order of a trial court admitting an attorney to practice in this state, together with a certificate of good standing from the Executive Director of the Mississippi Bar, the clerk may admit such attorneys to practice before the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals and administer the oath to each such attorney.

(d) **Withdrawal.** An attorney who appears before the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeals in an appeal or other proceeding may withdraw from the representation only with the approval of the appropriate court. If an attorney desires to withdraw, the attorney shall file a motion giving the attorney's reasons for desiring to withdraw and requesting approval of the appropriate court. Such motion shall be served upon the attorney's client and upon all parties. The motion shall be accompanied by an appearance form of substitute counsel or a signed statement by the client indicating that the client agrees to proceed *pro se*, or shall explain why neither can be obtained.

(e) **Disciplinary Power of the Court Over Attorneys.** Every petition, motion, brief, or other paper filed by a party represented by an attorney shall be signed by at least one attorney of record in the attorney's individual name, whose address shall be stated. The appellate court may, after reasonable notice and an opportunity to show cause to the contrary, and after hearing, if requested by the attorney, take any appropriate disciplinary action against any attorney who practices before it for conduct unbecoming a member of the bar, or for failure to comply with these rules or any order of the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeals, or for filing any frivolous petition, motion, brief, or other paper.

(f) **Suspension of Rules.** In the interest of expediting decision, or for other good cause shown, the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeals may suspend the requirements or provisions of any of these rules in a particular case on application of a party or on its own motion and may order proceedings in accordance with its direction; provided, however, in civil cases the time for taking an appeal as provided in Rules 4 or 5 may not be extended.