

# State of New York Court of Appeals

*At a session of the Court, held at Court of Appeals Hall in the City of Albany, on the 21st day of April, 2020.*

**Present,** HON. JANET DiFIORE, Chief Judge presiding.

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Temporary Waiver of Strict Compliance with certain provisions of Sections 520.3, 520.6, 520.9, 520.16, 520.17, and 520.18 of the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.3, 520.6, 520.9, 520.16, 520.17, and 520.18).

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**ORDER**

WHEREAS, the Court of Appeals recognizes the substantial challenges facing law schools, law students, and recent law graduates as a result of the coronavirus health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Court of Appeals seeks to alleviate those hardships, it is

ORDERED, that, for any J.D. student enrolled in any classroom-based course at a law school approved by the American Bar Association during the Spring 2020 and/or Summer 2020 semesters, which course was converted to a distance education course as a result of the coronavirus health emergency, strict compliance with the distance education provision contained in section 520.3(c)(6) of the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselor at Law (22 NYCRR 520.3[c][6]), defining distance education, be and the same hereby is waived, such that any converted course need not be counted towards the 15-credit hour limitation on distance education courses contained in section 520.3(c)(6)(i), and that any converted course need not be considered a distance education course for purposes of the prohibition on distance learning courses for students who have not yet completed the equivalent of 28 credit hours toward the first degree in law contained in section 520.3(c)(6)(iii); and it is further

ORDERED, that, for any LL.M. student enrolled in any course at a law school approved by the American Bar Association during the Spring 2020 and/or Summer 2020 semesters, strict compliance with the provisions contained in section 520.6(b)(3)(v) and 520.6(b)(3)(viii) of the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselor at Law (22 NYCRR 520.6[b][3][v], [viii]), requiring that all coursework for LL.M. cure programs be completed at the campus of an American Bar Association approved law school in the United States and prohibiting credit for distance learning courses, be and the same hereby is waived; and it is further

ORDERED, that, for any applicant who successfully completed the New York Law Course and passed the New York Law Exam after July 2019 and who first sits for the Uniform Bar Examination no later than 2021, strict compliance with the timing limitation of section

**520.9(a)(2)(ii) of the Rules of the Court of Appeals for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.9[a][2][ii]), providing that an applicant must demonstrate to the State Board of Law Examiners that the applicant has completed the New York Law Course no earlier than one year before the date on which the applicant first sits for the Uniform Bar Examination, be and the same hereby is waived; and it is further**

**ORDERED, that, for any applicant who successfully completed the New York Law Course and passed the New York Law Exam after July 2019 and who first sits for the Uniform Bar Examination no later than 2021, strict compliance with the timing limitation of section 520.9(a)(3)(ii) of the Rules of the Court of Appeals for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.9[a][3][ii]), providing that an applicant must demonstrate to the State Board of Law Examiners that the applicant has taken the New York Law Examination no earlier than one year before the date on which the applicant first sits for the Uniform Bar Examination, be and the same hereby is waived; and it is further**

**ORDERED that, for any Spring 2020 J.D. or LL.M. graduate, strict compliance with the requirements of section 520.16 of the Rules of the Court of Appeals for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.16), requiring the completion of at least 50 hours of qualifying pro bono service prior to filing an application for bar admission, and requiring the filing of proof of compliance, be and the same hereby is waived; and it is further**

**ORDERED, that, for any Spring 2020 graduate enrolled in the Pro Bono Scholars Program, strict compliance with the Program requirements contained in section 520.17(c)(2), section 520.17(c)(3), and section 520.17(d) of the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselor at Law (22 NYCRR 520.17[c][2], [c][3], [d]), requiring that participants in the Program complete at least 12 weeks of full-time pro bono work, complete a concomitant academic component at an approved law school, and earn at least 12 academic credits for participation in the program, be and the same hereby is waived; and it is further**

**ORDERED, that for any Spring 2020 J.D. or LL.M. graduate, strict compliance with the requirements of section 520.18 of the Rules of the Court of Appeals for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.18), mandating proof of compliance with the skills competency requirement for admission, be and the same hereby is waived; and it is further**

**ORDERED, that upon satisfying the Rules of this Court in all other respects, failure to comply with the above-referenced provisions shall not bar any applicant from sitting for the New York bar examination or from being admitted to the New York bar.**

**State of New York,  
Court of Appeals**

*At a session of the Court, held at Court of Appeals Hall in the City of Albany, on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020*

**Present**, HON. JANET DiFIORE, *Chief Judge, presiding*

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Temporary Waiver of Strict Compliance with certain provisions of Sections 520.3 and 520.6 of the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.3 and 520.6).

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**ORDER**

WHEREAS, the Court of Appeals recognizes the substantial challenges facing law schools and law students as a result of the coronavirus health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Court of Appeals seeks to alleviate those hardships, it is

ORDERED, that, for any J.D. student enrolled in any classroom-based course at a law school approved by the American Bar Association during the Fall 2020 semester, which course was converted to a distance education course as a result of the coronavirus health emergency, strict compliance with the distance education provision contained in section 520.3(c)(6) of the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.3[c][6]), defining distance education, be and the same hereby is waived, such that any converted course need not be counted towards the 15-credit hour limitation on distance education courses contained in section 520.3(c)(6)(i), and that any converted course need not be considered a distance education course for purposes of the prohibition on distance learning courses for students who have not yet completed the equivalent of 28 credit hours toward the first degree in law contained in section 520.3(c)(6)(iii); and it is further

ORDERED, that, for any LL.M. student enrolled in any course at a law school approved by the American Bar Association during the Fall 2020 semester, strict compliance with the provisions contained in section 520.6(b)(3)(v) and 520.6(b)(3)(viii) of the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.6[b][3][v], [viii]), requiring that all coursework for LL.M. cure programs be completed at the campus of an American Bar Association approved law school in the United States and prohibiting credit for distance learning courses, be and the same hereby is waived; and it is further

ORDERED, that, for any LL.M. student enrolled in an LL.M. program at a law school approved by the American Bar Association during the Summer 2021 semester, strict compliance

with the provision contained in section 520.b(3)(iii) of the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.6[b][3][iii]), limiting the number of credit hours that may be earned in courses completed during summer semesters to four, be and the same hereby is waived; and it is further

**ORDERED**, that upon satisfying the Rules of this Court in all other respects, failure to comply with the above-referenced provisions shall not bar any applicant from sitting for the New York bar examination or from being admitted to the New York bar.

**State of New York  
Court of Appeals**

*At a session of the Court, held at Court of Appeals  
Hall in the City of Albany, on the 29th  
day of July, 2020.*

**Present,** HON. JANET DiFIORE, Chief Judge presiding.

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Temporary Waiver of Strict Compliance with certain provisions of Sections 520.8 and 520.12 of the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.8 and 520.12).

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**ORDER**

WHEREAS, the Court of Appeals recognizes that ongoing public health and safety concerns resulting from the coronavirus health emergency preclude the in-person administration of the New York State Bar Examination originally scheduled for July 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Court of Appeals seeks to provide an expeditious pathway to licensure for law graduates while ensuring public protection and preserving the integrity of the legal profession, it is

ORDERED, that strict compliance with the requirements of section 520.8 and 520.12 of the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.8 and 520.12) is hereby waived to the extent that the New York State Board of Law Examiners shall be permitted to replace the Uniform Bar Examination with the Emergency Remote Testing Option to be offered by the National Conference of Bar Examiners on October 5-6, 2020; and it is further

ORDERED, that the Time to File Admission Application requirements of section 520.12 are hereby waived to the extent that an applicant who passes the Emergency Remote Testing Option must file a complete application for admission within one year from the date when such applicant sits for the second day of the Emergency Remote Testing Option; and it is further

ORDERED, that upon satisfying the Rules of this Court in all other respects, failure to comply with the above referenced provisions shall not bar any such applicant from being admitted to the New York bar.

**State of New York,  
Court of Appeals**

*At a session of the Court, held at Court of Appeals Hall in the City of Albany, on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020.*

**Present**, HON. JANET DiFIORE, *Chief Judge, presiding*

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Temporary Waiver of Strict Compliance with certain provisions of Section 520.6 of the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.6).

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**ORDER**

WHEREAS, the Court of Appeals recognizes the substantial challenges facing law schools and law students as a result of the coronavirus health emergency;

WHEREAS, the Court of Appeals seeks to alleviate those hardships; and

WHEREAS, an applicant for the New York State Bar Exam who obtained an LL.M. degree at a law school approved by the American Bar Association but whose LL.M. program did not satisfy the LL.M. cure program requirements contained in section 520.6(b)(3)(vi)(a)-(d) of the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.6[b][3][vi][a]-[d]), may complete such program requirements on a non-degree basis, it is

ORDERED, that, for any applicant completing such program requirements on a non-degree basis during the Spring, Summer, or Fall 2020 semester, strict compliance with the provisions contained in section 520.6(b)(3)(v) and 520.6(b)(3)(viii) of the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.6[b][3][v], [viii]), requiring that all coursework for LL.M. cure programs be completed at the campus of an American Bar Association approved law school in the United States and prohibiting credit for distance learning courses, be and the same hereby is waived; and it is further

ORDERED, that upon satisfying the Rules of this Court in all other respects, such applicants will be eligible to sit for the New York bar examination and to be admitted to the New York bar.

**State of New York,  
Court of Appeals**

*At a session of the Court, held at Court of Appeals  
Hall in the City of Albany, on the 15<sup>th</sup>  
day of September, 2020.*

**Present**, HON. JANET DiFIORE, *Chief Judge, presiding*

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Temporary Waiver of Strict Compliance with certain  
provisions of Sections 520.3 and 520.6 of the  
Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law  
(22 NYCRR 520.3 and 520.6).

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**ORDER**

**WHEREAS**, the Court of Appeals recognizes the continuing substantial challenges facing law schools and law students as a result of the ongoing coronavirus health emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Court of Appeals seeks to alleviate those hardships, it is

**ORDERED**, that, for any J.D. student enrolled in any classroom-based course at a law school approved by the American Bar Association during the Spring 2021 semester, which course was converted to a distance education course as a result of the coronavirus health emergency, strict compliance with the distance education provision contained in section 520.3(c)(6) of the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.3[c][6]), defining distance education, be and the same hereby is waived, such that any converted course need not be counted towards the 15-credit hour limitation on distance education courses contained in section 520.3(c)(6)(i), and that any converted course need not be considered a distance education course for purposes of the prohibition on distance learning courses for students who have not yet completed the equivalent of 28 credit hours toward the first degree in law contained in section 520.3(c)(6)(iii); and it is further

**ORDERED**, that, for any LL.M. student enrolled in any course at a law school approved by the American Bar Association during the Spring 2021 semester, strict compliance with the provisions contained in section 520.6(b)(3)(v) and 520.6(b)(3)(viii) of the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.6[b][3][v], [viii]), requiring that all coursework for LL.M. cure programs be completed at the campus of an American Bar Association approved law school in the United States and prohibiting credit for distance learning courses, be and the same hereby is waived; and it is further

**ORDERED, that upon satisfying the Rules of this Court in all other respects, failure to comply with the above-referenced provisions shall not bar any applicant from sitting for the New York bar examination or from being admitted to the New York bar.**



# State of New York, Court of Appeals

*At a session of the Court, held at Court of Appeals Hall in the City of Albany, on the 17th<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021*

**Present**, HON. JANET DIFIORE, *Chief Judge, presiding*

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Temporary Waiver of Strict Compliance with certain provisions of Sections 520.3 and 520.6 of the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.3 and 520.6).

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**ORDER**

WHEREAS, the Court of Appeals recognizes the substantial challenges facing law schools and law students as a result of the coronavirus health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Court of Appeals seeks to alleviate those hardships, it is

ORDERED, that, for any J.D. student enrolled in any classroom-based course at a law school approved by the American Bar Association during the Summer 2021 semester, which course was converted to a distance education course as a result of the coronavirus health emergency, strict compliance with the distance education provision contained in section 520.3(c)(6) of the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.3[c][6]), defining distance education, be and the same hereby is waived, such that any converted course need not be counted towards the 15-credit hour limitation on distance education courses contained in section 520.3(c)(6)(i), and that any converted course need not be considered a distance education course for purposes of the prohibition on distance learning courses for students who have not yet completed the equivalent of 28 credit hours toward the first degree in law contained in section 520.3(c)(6)(iii); and it is further

ORDERED, that, for any LL.M. student enrolled in any course at a law school approved by the American Bar Association during the Summer 2021 semester, strict compliance with the provisions contained in section 520.6(b)(3)(v) and 520.6(b)(3)(viii) of the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.6[b][3][v], [viii]), requiring that all coursework for LL.M. cure programs be completed at the campus of an American Bar Association approved law school in the United States and prohibiting credit for distance learning courses, be and the same hereby is waived; and it is further

ORDERED, that upon satisfying the Rules of this Court in all other respects, failure to comply with the above-referenced provisions shall not bar any applicant from sitting for the New York bar examination or from being admitted to the New York bar.

**State of New York,  
Court of Appeals**

*At a session of the Court, held at Court of Appeals Hall in the City of Albany, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2021*

**Present**, HON. JANET DIFIORE, *Chief Judge, presiding*

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Temporary Waiver of Strict Compliance with certain provisions of Sections 520.3 and 520.6 of the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.3 and 520.6).

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**ORDER**

WHEREAS, the Court of Appeals recognizes the continuing challenges and uncertainties facing law schools and law students as a result of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, including those related to social distancing requirements, travel restrictions, and individual health concerns; and

WHEREAS, despite these challenges, the Court of Appeals remains committed to ensuring compliance with the limitations on distance learning contained in sections 520.3(c)(6)(i), 520.3(c)(6)(iii), 520.6(b)(3)(v), and 520.6(b)(3)(viii) of the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.3[c][6], 520.6[b][3][v], and 520.6[b][3][viii]); and

WHEREAS, the Court of Appeals expects that law schools will make all reasonable and practicable efforts consistent with the challenges noted above to comply with the distance learning limitations contained in sections 520.3(c)(6)(i), 520.3(c)(6)(iii), 520.6(b)(3)(v), and 520.6(b)(3)(viii) of the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.3[c][6][i], 520.3[c][6][iii], 520.6[b][3][v], and 520.6[b][3][viii]); it is

ORDERED, that, for any J.D. student enrolled in any classroom-based course at a law school approved by the American Bar Association during the Fall 2021 semester, which course was converted to a distance education course as a result of the coronavirus health emergency, strict compliance with the distance education provision contained in section 520.3(c)(6) of the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.3[c][6]), defining distance education, be and the same hereby is waived, such that any converted course need not be counted towards the 15-credit hour limitation on distance education courses contained in section 520.3(c)(6)(i), and that any converted course need not be considered a distance education course for purposes of the prohibition on distance learning courses for students who have not yet

completed the equivalent of 28 credit hours toward the first degree in law contained in section 520.3(c)(6)(iii); and it is further

ORDERED, that, for any LL.M. student enrolled in any course at a law school approved by the American Bar Association during the Fall 2021 semester, strict compliance with the provisions contained in section 520.6(b)(3)(v) and 520.6(b)(3)(viii) of the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.6[b][3][v], [viii]), requiring that all coursework for LL.M. cure programs be completed at the campus of an American Bar Association approved law school in the United States and prohibiting credit for distance learning courses, be and the same hereby is waived; and it is further

ORDERED, that upon satisfying the Rules of this Court in all other respects, failure to comply with the above-referenced provisions shall not bar any applicant from sitting for the New York bar examination or from being admitted to the New York bar.