

# 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 fourteenth day  
of March, 2024.*

**Present**, HON. ROWAN D. WILSON, *Chief Judge, presiding*

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Temporary Waiver of Strict Compliance with certain provisions of Sections 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 challenges and uncertainties facing foreign-educated law students as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, including those related to social distancing requirements, travel restrictions, and individual health concerns, which prompted foreign law schools to transition foreign law programs from in-person learning to online learning; and

WHEREAS, despite these challenges, the Court of Appeals remains committed to ensuring compliance with the limitations on distance learning contained in Rule 520.6 of the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.6); and

WHEREAS, the Court of Appeals expects that foreign law graduates will make all reasonable and practicable efforts consistent with the challenges noted above to comply with the distance learning limitations contained in Rule 520.6 of the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.6); it is

ORDERED, that, for any foreign law graduate enrolled in any classroom-based course at a foreign law school approved by the government or an authorized accrediting body in such foreign country, or a political subdivision thereof, to award a first degree in law, during the Spring 2020 through Spring 2022 semesters, which course was converted to a distance education course as a result of the coronavirus health emergency, strict compliance with the distance education prohibition for foreign law study of Rule 520.6 of the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.6), be and the same hereby is waived, such that any converted course need not be considered a distance education course; and it is further

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