



*State of New York
Court of Appeals*

*Andrew W. Klein
Clerk of the Court*

*Clerk's Office
Albany, New York 12207-1095*

January 26, 2011

NOTICE TO THE BAR

Provision of Legal Services Following a Major Disaster

Effective February 9, 2011, the Court of Appeals has amended the Rules of the Court of Appeals for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law, adding a section relating to attorney practice in New York following a major disaster in New York or in another United States jurisdiction.

A copy of the order amending the Rules is attached.

Questions may be directed by telephone to the Clerk's Office at (518) 455-7760 or (518) 455-7772.

Andrew W. Klein
Clerk of the Court

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.....13th.....day
of.....January 2011.....

Present, HON. JONATHAN LIPPMAN, Chief Judge, presiding.

In the Matter

of

The Amendment of the Rules of the Court of Appeals
For the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law.



Pursuant to section 53 of the Judiciary Law, it is hereby

ORDERED, that section 520.11 of the Rules of the Court of Appeals for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR § 520.11) is amended, effective February 9, 2011, or as soon thereafter as section 52 of the Judiciary Law is complied with, by deleting the bracketed material and adding the underlined material.

A new subsection (d) has been added and the former subsection (d) has been renumbered as subsection (e) and further amended.

520.11 Admission Pro Hac Vice

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(d) Provision of Legal Services Following Determination of Major Disaster.

(1) Determination of existence of major disaster. Upon the declaration of a state of disaster or emergency by the governor of New York or of another jurisdiction, for purposes of this subdivision, this Court shall determine whether an emergency exists affecting the justice system.

(2) Temporary pro bono practice following the determination of a major disaster. Following a determination by this Court that persons residing in New York are (i) affected by a state of disaster or emergency in the entirety or a part of New York or (ii) displaced by a declared state of disaster or emergency in another jurisdiction, and such persons are in need

of pro bono services and the assistance of attorneys from outside of New York is required to help provide such services, an attorney authorized to practice law in another United States jurisdiction may provide legal services in New York on a temporary basis. Such legal services must be provided on a pro bono basis without compensation from the client, or expectation of compensation or other direct or indirect pecuniary gain to the attorney from the client. Such legal services shall be assigned and supervised through an established not-for-profit bar association in New York or an organization described in subdivision 7 of section 495 of the Judiciary Law.

(3) Other temporary practice following the determination of a major disaster. Following the determination of a major disaster in another United States jurisdiction - after such a declaration of a state of disaster or emergency and its geographical scope have been made by the governor and a determination of the highest court of that jurisdiction that an emergency exists affecting the justice system - an attorney who has been authorized to practice law and is in good standing in that jurisdiction and who principally practices in that affected jurisdiction may provide legal services in New York on a temporary basis in association with an attorney admitted and in good standing in New York. The authority to engage in the temporary practice of law in New York pursuant to this paragraph shall extend only to attorneys who principally practice in the area of such other jurisdiction determined to have suffered a major disaster causing an emergency affecting the justice system and the provision of legal services. Those legal services shall be limited to:

(i) representing clients with respect to matters that the attorney was handling prior to the disaster, and

(ii) new matters in the area affected by the disaster that the attorney could have handled but is unable to do so because

(a) the attorney's ability to practice in the jurisdiction affected by the disaster has been limited by the disaster, and/or

(b) the client has temporarily relocated from the disaster area to another jurisdiction because of the disaster.

(4) Duration of authority for temporary practice. The authority to practice law in New York granted by paragraph (2) of this subdivision shall end when this Court determines that the conditions caused by the major disaster in New York have ended except that an attorney then representing clients in New York pursuant to paragraph (2) is authorized to continue the provision of legal services for such time as is reasonably necessary to complete the

representation, but the attorney shall not thereafter accept new clients. The authority to practice law in New York granted by paragraph (3) of this subdivision shall end 60 days after either the governor or this Court declares that the conditions caused by the major disaster in the affected jurisdiction have ended.

(5) Court appearances. The authority granted by this subdivision does not include appearances in court except pursuant to subdivision (a) of this section.

(6) Admission and Registration requirement. An attorney may be admitted *pro hac vice* in the discretion of the Appellate Division, provided the applicant is a graduate of an approved law school and is not disbarred, suspended from practice or otherwise restricted from practice in any jurisdiction, to provide legal services in New York pursuant to paragraphs (2) or (3) of this subdivision. Such applicant must file a registration statement with the Office of Court Administration before the commencement of the provision of legal services. The application shall be in a form prescribed by the Appellate Division and the registration statement shall be in a form prescribed by the Office of Court Administration.

(7) Notification to clients. Attorneys authorized to practice law in another United States jurisdiction who provide legal services pursuant to this subdivision shall inform clients in New York of the jurisdiction in which they are authorized to practice law, any limits of that authorization, and the limitations on their authorization to practice law in New York as permitted by this subdivision. They shall not state or imply to any person that they are otherwise authorized to practice law in New York.

[d](e) Professional Responsibility Requirements.

An attorney admitted *pro hac vice* pursuant to this section:

(1) shall be familiar with and shall comply with the standards of professional conduct imposed upon members of the New York bar, including the rules of court governing the conduct of attorneys and the [Disciplinary] Rules of [the Code of] Professional [Responsibility] Conduct; and

(2) shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the courts of this State with respect to any acts occurring during the course of the attorney's participation in the matter.