



State of New York
Court of Appeals

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Notice to the Bar

The Court of Appeals has issued an order waiving strict compliance with certain distance learning limitations of section 520.3 and 520.6 of the Rules for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.3 and 520.6) for J.D. or LL.M. students who are enrolled during the Fall 2025 semester at a law school approved by the American Bar Association, who have been unable to gain entry to the United States before commencement of the Fall 2025 semester due to delays in processing the student's visa application to the extent that any J.D. or LL.M. student who is issued a visa on or before October 3, 2025 and who commences in-person instruction within 10 days of the date the visa is issued, may attend classes via distance learning until such date. The complete order, with further conditions, is attached.

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 24th day of July, 2025

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

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

ORDER

WHEREAS, the Court of Appeals recognizes that a significant number of J.D. and LL.M. students are experiencing delays obtaining student visas that may impact their ability to appear on campus, in-person by the commencement of the Fall 2025 semester; and

WHEREAS, despite these delays, such students may wish to commence the Fall 2025 semester as scheduled; and

WHEREAS, the Court of Appeals remains fully committed to ensuring compliance with the limitations on distance learning contained in sections 520.3(c)(2), 520.3(c)(3), and 520.6(b)(3)(v), and 520.6(b)(3)(viii) of the Rules of the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.3[c][2], 520.3[c][3], and 520.6[b][3][v], and 520.6[b][3][viii]); and

WHEREAS, the Court of Appeals expects that law schools and law students will make all reasonable and practicable efforts consistent with the delays noted above to comply with the distance learning limitations contained in sections 520.3(c)(2), 520.3(c)(3), and 520.6(b)(3)(v), and 520.6(b)(3)(viii) of the Rules of the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.3[c][2], 520.3[c][3], and 520.6[b][3][v], and 520.6[b][3][viii]); it is

ORDERED that for any J.D. or LL.M. student enrolled during the Fall 2025 semester at a law school approved by the American Bar Association, who has been unable to gain entry to the United States before the commencement of the Fall 2025 semester due to delays in processing the student's visa application, strict compliance with the distance learning limitations contained in sections 520.3(c)(2), 520.3(c)(3), and 520.6(b)(3)(v), and 520.6(b)(3)(viii) of the Rules of the

Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.3[c][2], 520.3[c][3], and 520.6[b][3][v], and 520.6[b][3][viii]) is hereby waived to the extent that any J.D. or LL.M. student who is issued a visa on or before October 3, 2025 and who commences in-person instruction within 10 days of the date the visa is issued, may attend classes via distance learning until such date; and it is further

ORDERED that, upon satisfying the rules of this Court in all other respects, and upon an applicant's presentation to the New York Board of Law Examiners proof and a certification establishing that the applicant obtained a visa to enter the United States on or before October 3, 2025, and regularly attended courses in-person, on campus within 10 days of the date the visa was issued, together with a separate certification from the student's law school verifying the same, failure to comply with the above-referenced provisions shall not bar the applicant from sitting for the New York bar examination or from being admitted to the New York bar; and it is further

ORDERED that the above visa deadlines are non-waivable and petitions for individual waivers of these deadlines for visa-related issues will not be considered by the Court.