

MN ST ADMIS BAR Rule 10

52 M.S.A., Admission to the Bar Rule 10

**MINNESOTA STATUTES ANNOTATED
RULES FOR ADMISSION TO THE BAR**

Rule 10. License For Foreign Legal Consultants

A. Eligibility. A person who is admitted to practice in a foreign country as an attorney or counselor at law may apply for, and at the discretion of the Board of Law Examiners, may obtain a license to render services as a foreign legal consultant in the State of Minnesota, without examination, subject to the limitations set forth in this Rule.

B. Requirements. In order to qualify for the license the applicant must:

- (1) have been admitted to practice in a foreign country as an attorney or counselor at law or the equivalent; and
- (2) as principal occupation, have been engaged in the practice of law of that country in that country for at least five of the seven years immediately preceding the application; and
- (3) be in current good standing as an attorney or counselor at law or the equivalent in that country, and have remained in good standing throughout the period of his/her practice; and
- (4) possess the good character and fitness required for admission to practice in this state; and
- (5) be at least 24 years of age; and
- (6) maintain an office in the state of Minnesota for the rendering of services as a foreign legal consultant.

C. Applications. In order to qualify for the foreign legal consultant license, an applicant must file with the Minnesota Board of Law Examiners the following documents, together with duly authenticated English translations, if they are not in English:

- (1) a sworn and notarized typewritten Application for Foreign Legal Consultant License;
- (2) a duly authenticated certificate from the authority having final jurisdiction over professional discipline in the foreign country in which the applicant is admitted to practice, which shall be accompanied by the official seal, if any, of such authority, and which shall certify:
 - (a) the authority's jurisdiction in such matters;
 - (b) the applicant's admission to practice in such foreign country, the date of admission, and the applicant's good standing as an attorney or counselor at law or the equivalent in that jurisdiction;

(3) a duly authenticated document from any foreign country or jurisdiction in which said consultant has been licensed as an attorney or as a foreign legal consultant indicating whether any charge or complaint has ever been filed against the applicant with such authority, if so, the substance of each such charge or complaint, and the adjudication or resolution of each such charge or complaint;

(4) a letter or recommendation signed by, and accompanied with the official seal, if any, of one of the members of the executive body of such authority or from one of the judges of the highest court of law of such foreign country, certifying to the applicant's professional qualifications;

(5) a summary of the law or rule, if any, of such foreign country which permits members of the bar of Minnesota to establish offices for the giving of legal advice to clients in such foreign country;

(6) letters of recommendation from at least three attorneys or counselors at law or the equivalent admitted in and practicing in such foreign country, setting forth the length of time, and under what circumstances they have known the applicant and stating their appraisal of the applicant's good character and fitness for admission;

(7) notarized letters of recommendation from at least two members in good standing of the Minnesota Bar, setting forth the length of time, and under what circumstances they have known the applicant and their appraisal of the applicant's good character and fitness for admission;

(8) such other evidence as to the applicant's educational and professional qualifications, good character and fitness and compliance with the requirements of this rule as the Minnesota Board of Law Examiners may require; and

(9) a fee in the amount of \$1,000, in the form of a certified check or money order.

D. Investigation. The Minnesota Board of Law Examiners shall conduct such investigation into the applicant's background and verification of supporting documents as the Board may deem appropriate or necessary in the circumstances.

E. Scope of Practice. A person licensed as a foreign legal consultant under this rule may render legal services in the State of Minnesota regarding the laws of the country in which such person is admitted to practice as an attorney, counselor at law or equivalent. The foreign legal consultant shall not, however, conduct any activity or render any services constituting the practice of the law of the United States, the State of Minnesota, or that of any other state, commonwealth or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia including, but not limited to, the restrictions that such person shall not:

(1) appear for another person as attorney in any court or before any magistrate or other judicial officer or before any federal, state, county or municipal governmental agency, quasi-judicial or quasi-governmental authority in the State of Minnesota, or prepare pleadings or any other papers in any action or proceedings brought in any such court or before any such judicial officer, except

as authorized in any rule or procedure relating to admission pro hac vice, or pursuant to administrative rule;

(2) provide legal advice in connection with the preparation of any deed, mortgage, assignment, discharge, lease, agreement of sale or any other instrument affecting title to:

(a) real property located in the United States of America;

(b) personal property located in the United States of America, except where the instrument affecting title to such personal property is governed by the law of a jurisdiction in which the foreign legal consultant is admitted to practice as an attorney or counselor at law or the equivalent;

(3) prepare:

(a) any will or trust instrument affecting the disposition of any property located in the United States of America and owned by a resident thereof;

(b) any instrument relating to the administration of a decedent's estate in the United States of America;

(4) prepare any instrument in respect of the marital relations, rights or duties of a resident of the United States of America or the custody or care of the children of such a resident;

(5) render professional legal advice on the law of the State of Minnesota or the United States of America or any other state, subdivision, commonwealth or territory of the United States of America or the District of Columbia (whether rendered incident to the preparation of a legal instrument or otherwise);

(6) in any way represent that such person is admitted to the Bar of the State of Minnesota or is licensed as an attorney or foreign legal consultant in another state, territory or the District of Columbia, or as an attorney or counselor at law or the equivalent in a foreign country, unless so licensed;

(7) use any title other than "Foreign Legal Consultant, Not Admitted to Practice Law in Minnesota", provided that such person's authorized title and firm name in the foreign country in which such person is admitted to practice as attorney or counselor at law or the equivalent may be used if the title, firm name, and the name of such foreign country are stated together with the above-mentioned designation;

(8) render any legal services for a client without utilizing a written retainer agreement which shall specify in bold type that the foreign legal consultant is not admitted to practice law in the State of Minnesota, nor licensed to advise on the laws of the United States or the District of Columbia, and that the practice of the foreign legal consultant is limited to the laws of the foreign country where such person is admitted to practice as an attorney or counselor at law or the equivalent; or

(9) hold any client funds or valuables without entering into a written retainer agreement which shall specify in bold type the name of a Minnesota licensed attorney in good standing who is also representing the particular client in the particular matter at hand.

F. Disciplinary Provisions.

(1) A foreign legal consultant is expressly subject to the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct and to continuing review of qualifications to retain any license granted hereunder, and shall be subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of the Minnesota Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility and the Minnesota Supreme Court.

(2) Section 1 above shall not be construed to limit in any way concurrent disciplinary procedures to which the foreign legal consultant may be subject in the country of admission.

(3) A foreign legal consultant shall execute and file with the Board of Law Examiners, in such form and manner as the court prescribes:

(a) a statement that the foreign legal consultant has read, understood, and made a commitment to observe the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct; and

(b) either:

(1) an undertaking or appropriate evidence of professional liability insurance, in such amount as the Minnesota Supreme Court may prescribe, to assure such foreign legal consultant's proper professional conduct and responsibility; or

(2) an appropriate undertaking in the amount of \$50,000.00 in the form of a bond, letter of credit or other financial guaranty instrument issued by a reputable financial institution based in, and authorized to do business in, the United States of America or any state therein for the purpose of assuring the foreign legal consultant's proper professional conduct and responsibility; and

(c) a duly acknowledged instrument in writing setting forth such foreign legal consultant's address within the State of Minnesota and designating the Clerk of the Appellate Courts as agent for the service of process for all purposes; and

(d) a commitment to notify the Minnesota Board of Law Examiners of any resignation or revocation of such foreign legal consultant's admission to practice in the foreign country of admission, or in any other state or jurisdiction in which the foreign legal consultant has been licensed as an attorney or counselor at law or equivalent or as a foreign legal consultant, or of any censure, suspension, or expulsion in respect of such admission.

G. Annual Certification and Renewal Fees.

(1) A foreign legal consultant shall submit on a biennial basis to the Minnesota Board of Law Examiners:

(a) a sworn statement attesting to his/her continued good standing as an attorney or counselor at law or equivalent in the foreign country in which he/she is admitted to practice;

(b) a fee in the amount of \$200.

(2) The foreign legal consultant shall submit on an annual basis to the Minnesota Attorney Registration office an attorney registration fee equivalent to the renewal fees paid by Minnesota licensed attorneys pursuant to the Rules of the Supreme Court for Registration of Attorneys.

Adopted Aug. 26, 1998.