

TX R ADMIS Rule XIV

VERNON'S TEXAS RULES ANNOTATED RULES GOVERNING ADMISSION TO THE BAR OF TEXAS

Rule XIV. Foreign Legal Consultants

(a) A "Foreign Legal Consultant" is a person who:

- (1) has been, and is currently, admitted to practice law in a foreign country, and while so admitted, has engaged in the practice of law in that country for a period of not less than five of the seven years immediately preceding the date of Application and has been in good standing as an attorney or counselor at law or the equivalent in that country throughout the period of such admission; and
- (2) possesses the good moral character and fitness requisite for admission to the Bar of Texas; and
- (3) is an actual resident of Texas; and
- (4) is over twenty-six (26) years of age; and
- (5) possesses the requisite documentation evidencing compliance with the immigration laws of the United States; and
- (6) has been issued a Certificate of Registration as Foreign Legal Consultant, which certificate is in current status.

(b) An Applicant for a Certificate of Registration as a Foreign Legal Consultant shall file an Application with the Board on a form furnished by the Board accompanied by the requisite fee. Such Application shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) a certificate from the authority in such foreign country having final jurisdiction over professional admission and discipline, certifying as to the Applicant's admission to practice and the date thereof and as to his or her good standing as such attorney or counselor at law or the equivalent, together with a duly authenticated English translation of such certificate if it is not in English; and
- (2) a letter of recommendation from one of the members of the executive body of such authority or from one of the judges of the highest law court or intermediate appellate court of such foreign country, together with a duly authenticated English translation of such letter if it is not in English; and
- (3) such other evidence as to the Applicant's educational and professional qualifications, required practice, and good moral character and fitness; and
- (4) documentation in duly authenticated form evidencing that the Applicant is lawfully entitled to reside and be employed in the United States of America pursuant to the immigration laws thereof; and
- (5) a duly acknowledged instrument in writing setting forth the Applicant's address of actual residence in the State of Texas and designating an agent for service in Texas upon whom process may be served, with like effect as if served personally upon the Applicant, in any action or proceeding thereafter brought against the Applicant and arising out of or based upon any legal services rendered or offered to be rendered by the Applicant within or to residents of the State of

Texas whenever, after due diligence, service cannot be made upon the Applicant at such address or at such new address as filed by a supplemental instrument; and

(6) in such amount as the Board may prescribe, evidence of professional liability insurance or such other proof of financial responsibility as the Board may require, to assure the Applicant's proper professional conduct and responsibility; and

(7) a duly acknowledged statement affirming that the Board will be immediately advised of any law suit brought against the Applicant which arises out of or is based upon any legal services rendered or offered to be rendered by the Applicant within Texas.

(c) The Board shall investigate the qualifications, moral character, and fitness of any Applicant for a certificate, and may require the Applicant to submit any additional proof or information which the Board deems appropriate.

(1) The Applicant shall disclose all past charges of professional misconduct and shall show that the Applicant has never been disbarred or had his or her license suspended and that there are no charges of misconduct pending against Applicant, and so far as the Applicant knows none are being threatened.

(2) Upon a showing that strict compliance with the provisions of (b)(1) or (2) of this Rule is impossible or very difficult for reasons beyond the control of the Applicant, the Board may in its discretion, waive or vary the Application of such provisions and permit the Applicant to submit other evidence.

(3) Upon completion of its investigation, if the Board determines that the Applicant possesses all the qualifications set forth in paragraph (a) of this Rule, the Board shall recommend to the Court the issuance of a Certificate of Registration as a Foreign Legal Consultant.

(d) The Certificate of Registration as a Foreign Legal Consultant shall be valid for one year, unless revoked for good cause shown, and may be renewed upon the filing of an annual request, which shall be accompanied by payment of the annual renewal fee and such evidence as the Board shall deem necessary that all requirements for the issuance of an original Certificate continue to be met.

(e) Certified Foreign Legal Consultants shall be subject to control by the Supreme Court of Texas and to censure, suspension, removal or revocation of the Certificate of Registration in accordance with the State Bar Act, the State Bar Rules, and the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct applicable to members of the State Bar of Texas.

(f) Each Applicant, prior to the issuance of the Certificate of Registration, shall execute and file with the Supreme Court of Texas an oath in the form prescribed attesting that the Foreign Legal Consultant will abide by the rules and regulations applicable to such Certified Foreign Legal Consultant.

(g) A Foreign Legal Consultant may render legal services and give professional legal advice only on the law of the foreign country where the legal consultant is admitted to practice, subject, however, to the limitations that such person shall not:

(1) appear for a person other than himself as attorney in any Court, before any magistrate or other judicial officer, or before any administrative agency in Texas or prepare pleadings or any

other papers or issue subpoenas in any action or proceeding brought in any such Court, before any such magistrate or other judicial officer, or before any such administrative agency; or

(2) prepare any deed, mortgage, assignment, discharge, lease, trust instrument, or any other instrument affecting title to real estate located in the United States; or

(3) prepare:

(A) any will or trust instrument affecting the disposition on death of any property located in the United States; or

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

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

(5) otherwise render professional legal services or advice on the law of the State of Texas or of the United States or of any other jurisdiction (domestic or foreign) in which such person is not authorized to practice law (whether rendered incident to the preparation of legal instruments or otherwise); or

(6) in any way hold himself out as an attorney licensed in Texas, as a member of the State Bar of Texas, or as an attorney licensed in any United States jurisdiction, unless actually so licensed; or

(7) use any title other than "Foreign Legal Consultant," or his or her authorized title and/or firm name in the foreign country of his admission to practice, in each case in conjunction with the name of such foreign country.