



AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

**Section of Legal Education  
and Admissions to the Bar**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Persons and Entities

FROM: Hon. Christine M. Durham, Council Chairperson  
Hulett H. Askew, Consultant on Legal Education

SUBJECT: Proposed Model Rule on Admission of Foreign Educated  
Lawyers and Proposed Criteria for ABA Certification of an LL.M. Degree  
for the Practice of Law in the United States

At its meeting in March 2011, the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar approved the attached Model Rule and Criteria to be distributed for comment.

The purpose of the attached Model Rule and Criteria is to aid state courts and bar examiners in identifying LL.M. programs that meet specific criteria designed to prepare graduates of foreign law schools to take the bar examination and to practice law in the United States. The primary goal of this Model Rule is to provide assistance to those state courts that have not adopted requirements governing the admission of foreign lawyers. Those state courts that already have established criteria with respect to LL.M. programs that qualify a foreign lawyer to take a bar examination may wish to continue to rely on that state's established criteria.

In the attached document, the Report of the International Legal Education Committee that drafted the Rule precedes the Proposed Model Rule and Criteria.

We solicit and encourage written comments on the proposed Model Rule and Criteria by letter or e-mail. Please address written comments to Charlotte (Becky) Stretch, Assistant Consultant, at our Chicago office or at [becky.stretch@americanbar.org](mailto:becky.stretch@americanbar.org). Comments should be submitted no later than July 15, 2011.

After reviewing the comments and making any amendments to the proposal, the Council of the Section plans to submit the proposed Model Rule to the ABA House of Delegates, possibly in February 2012.

Thank you.

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