

Policy Allowing a Grace Period for Submission of Semi-Annual Reports by Law Office Study Participants

The Committee acknowledges that applicants studying law in a law office or judge's chambers pursuant to Rule 4.29 of the Rules of the State Bar may have been impacted in their ability to submit the semi-annual reports required under Rule 4.29 (B)(5) in a timely manner due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants should be given an opportunity to submit or re-submit up to two semi-annual reports and get credit for study completed during the pandemic when the failure to submit a report in a timely manner was the only reason for them not receiving credit.

For this reason, law office study applicants who continued their studies during the pandemic but failed to submit one or more of the required semi-annual reports shall be given an extended grace period for submission of up to two semi-annual reports. A semi-annual report that was due to be submitted from March 1, 2020 to the date of adoption of this policy by the Committee will be accepted if it is submitted no later than sixty days after the adoption of this policy, by December 13th, 2022, and otherwise meets all applicable requirements.

Semi-annual reports that were submitted from March 1, 2020 to the date of adoption of this policy that were not accepted solely because of late submission may be re-submitted. A semi-annual report that is re-submitted pursuant to this policy will be accepted if it meets all applicable requirements other than timeliness of submission.

Only those applicants who previously submitted at least one semi-annual report, either before or after March 1, 2020, and had that report accepted by the State Bar, are eligible to be granted credit on the basis of reports submitted or re-submitted pursuant to this policy. Each applicant is only eligible to be granted credit for no more than two six-month periods of study on the basis of reports submitted or re-submitted pursuant to this policy. Credit will not be granted for any periods of study of less than six months, as required under rule 4.29.

An applicant who has a late-submitted report accepted pursuant to this policy and who becomes eligible for the First Year Law Students Examination because they now have one year of study deemed completed will be considered to become eligible for the First Year Law Students Examination as of the date the report is accepted for purposes of the requirement under Rule 4.31 that the applicant pass the examination within three consecutive administrations of first becoming eligible to take the examination. Applicants who become eligible for the First Year Law Students Examination as the result of a late-submitted report remain subject to the provisions of Rule 4.31.

This policy applies only to the submission of the semi-annual reports for applicants in the Law Office Study Program. It does not affect any other requirements of the program, and applicants will not receive credit for any study periods during which they failed to meet program requirements other than the reporting requirements.

Adopted by Committee of Bar Examiners October 14, 2022