Rule 1
Definitions and General Provisions

(a) Frequently used terms are defined as follows:

(1) “Accredited” means that a law school is recognized as being qualified by the
competent accrediting agency of a State or foreign jurisdiction, by a political
subdivision of a State or foreign jurisdiction, or by another authorized body
of a State or foreign jurisdiction.

(2) “Applicant” means a person, including a person approved for a Probationary License, who files with the Board any Application to take the Texas Bar Examination, to be admitted to the Bar with or without the Texas Bar Examination, or for certification as a Foreign Legal Consultant.

(3) “Application” means an application or re-application submitted to the Board to take the Texas Bar Examination, to be admitted to the Bar with or without the Texas Bar Examination, or for certification as a Foreign Legal Consultant.

(4) “Approved law school” means a law school approved by the American Bar Association.

(5) “Authorized to practice law” means that the Applicant has achieved the ability to engage in activities that would be recognized in the United States as the practice of law.

(6) “Bar” means the State Bar of Texas.

(7) “Board” means the Texas Board of Law Examiners.

(8) “Chemical dependency” means substance use disorder as defined by the American Psychiatric Association in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual DSM-5 and any subsequent revisions thereof.

(9) “Controlled substance” has the meaning assigned by Section 462.001, Health and Safety Code.

(10) “Declarant” means a person who files with the Board a Declaration of Intention to Study Law.

(11) “Declaration” means a Declaration of Intention to Study Law.

(12) “Practice of law” includes:

(A) as a judge, magistrate, referee, or similar official for a local, State, or federal government, provided that the employment is open only to licensed attorneys;

(B) employment as a full-time teacher of law at an approved law school; or

(C) any combination of the preceding categories.
(13) “State” means any state or territory of the United States, as well as the District of Columbia.

(14) “Supreme Court” means the Supreme Court of Texas.

(15) “Texas Bar Examination” means the Uniform Bar Examination administered by the Board beginning with the February 2021 administration and the examination administered by the Board before the February 2021 administration.

(16) “Texas Bar Examination Security Policy” means the written policy statement published by the Board describing the conduct and activity of Applicants that is either prohibited or allowed during administration of the Texas Bar Examination.

(17) “Uniform Bar Examination” means the assessment coordinated by the National Conference of Bar Examiners and administered by the Board or by another State that is composed of the Multi Essay Examination, two Multi Performance Test tasks, and the Multi Bar Examination.

(b) The terms “admitted,” “admitted to the Bar,” “licensed,” and “licensed to practice law in Texas” are used interchangeably in these Rules.

(c) A document is considered filed when:

(1) the document and any required fee are submitted electronically through the Board’s website; or

(2) the document and any required fee are received by the Board in accordance with the Board’s written policies and instructions.

(d) A document submitted electronically is considered signed if the document includes:

(1) a name typed in the space where the signature would otherwise appear;

(2) an electronic or scanned image of the signature;

(3) a digital signature; or

(4) any other form of signature allowed by the Board’s written policies and instructions.

(e) The Board must not disclose to any third party any information obtained with respect to the character or fitness of any Applicant or Declarant, except:

(1) upon written authority of the Applicant or Declarant;

(2) in response to a valid subpoena from a court of competent jurisdiction; or

(3) to the Bar’s Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel or to the Texas Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee.

(f) A document must be filed with the Board by the date stated in these Rules even if the date falls on a weekend or holiday.
Every document required to be filed by these Rules must be filed through the electronic filing manager established by the Board. A document is considered timely filed if it is electronically filed by 11:59 p.m. Central Standard Time on the filing deadline.

**Rule 2**

**General Eligibility Requirements for Admission to the Bar**

(a) To be eligible for admission or reinstatement as a licensed attorney in Texas, an Applicant must:

1. comply with all applicable requirements of these Rules;
2. be at least 18 years of age;
3. be of present good moral character and fitness;
4. have completed the law study required under these Rules, unless specifically exempted under Rule 13;
5. qualify under one of the following categories:
   - (A) be a United States citizen;
   - (B) be a United States national;
   - (C) be an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence;
   - (D) be otherwise authorized to work lawfully in the United States, including in a period of Optional Practical Training; or
   - (E) be an Applicant who does not reside in the United States when the Application is submitted;
6. have satisfactorily completed the Texas Bar Examination, unless specifically exempted from the Texas Bar Examination under Rule 13 (but an Applicant for reinstatement must not be so exempted);
7. have satisfactorily completed the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination;
8. have satisfactorily completed the Texas Law Component, unless specifically exempted under Rule 5 (but an Applicant for reinstatement must not be so exempted);
9. be willing to take the oath required of attorneys in Texas;
10. pay the appropriate licensing fee to the Clerk of Supreme Court of Texas; and
11. enroll in the Bar by filing an enrollment form and paying the appropriate fees and assessments due within the time specified in the State Bar Rules.

(b) If an Applicant does not satisfy all requirements for admission to the Bar within