

FILED

March 26, 2026

**OFFICE OF
APPELLATE COURTS**

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

ADM09-8008

ADM10-8002

**ORDER PROMULGATING AMENDMENTS TO THE
RULES OF THE MINNESOTA STATE BOARD OF
CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION AND THE RULES ON
LAWYER REGISTRATION**

On December 9, 2025, the Minnesota State Bar Association and the Minnesota State Board of Continuing Legal Education filed a joint petition recommending amendments to the Rules of the Supreme Court on Lawyer Registration and the Rules of the Minnesota State Board of Continuing Legal Education that would (1) revise and expand the emeritus lawyer program by allowing eligible lawyers to elect retirement status at age 62 (instead of age 68) through provision of qualified pro bono legal representation; and (2) revise the CLE requirements for retired-emeritus lawyers. *See* Joint Petition of the Minnesota State Bar Association & the Minnesota State Board of Continuing Legal Education to Amend the Rules of the Supreme Court on Lawyer Registration and the Rules of the Board of Continuing Legal Education, Nos. ADM09-8008, ADM10-8002 (Minn. filed Dec. 9, 2025).

Having carefully considered the petition, we agree with the proposed recommendations. As explained in the petition, the amendments maintain the retirement age of 68 but allow Minnesota lawyers beginning at age 62 to elect emeritus status if they meet the applicable requirements. Lawyers 62 to 67 years of age who elect emeritus status are

required to provide 20-or-more hours of pro bono legal services and report on this work annually until they meet the current retirement age of 68.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Rules of the Supreme Court on Lawyer Registration and the Rules of the Minnesota State Board of Continuing Legal Education are amended as shown in the attachment to this order. The amendments are effective as of May 1, 2026.

Dated: March 26, 2026

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Natalie E. Hudson".

Natalie E. Hudson
Chief Justice

**AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF THE MINNESOTA STATE BOARD
OF CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION**

[Note: in the following amendments, deletions are indicated by a line drawn through the words and additions by a line drawn under the words.]

* * *

Rule 2. Definitions

* * *

K. “Emeritus status” is the status of a lawyer who has filed a Retirement Affidavit pursuant to Rule ~~2(C)(5)~~ 7A of the Rules of the Supreme Court on Lawyer Registration, is not on involuntary restricted status, has submitted an Affidavit of Emeritus Status Appendix IV showing compliance with the requirements of CLE Rule 14, and is authorized by Rule 14 to provide pro bono legal representation to a pro bono client when referred by an approved legal services provider. Emeritus status lawyers remain on restricted status.

* * *

Rule 14. Emeritus Status

A. Qualification. A lawyer who has filed a Retirement Affidavit pursuant to Rule ~~2(C)(5)~~ 7A of the Rules of the Supreme Court on Lawyer Registration and who has elected restricted status under the CLE Rules may elect emeritus status by complying with the requirements for emeritus status listed below.

B. Limitation of Practice. A lawyer on emeritus status is authorized solely to provide pro bono legal representation to a pro bono client in a matter referred to the lawyer by an approved legal services provider.

C. Contents of Emeritus Affidavit Appendix IV. Prior to representation as described by Rule 14B, the lawyer shall complete and submit to the Board an affidavit of emeritus status (Appendix IV) which shall include ~~the following:~~

~~(1) The list of approved CLE courses that the lawyer~~ a list of the courses that the lawyer has attended or participated in during the 90-day one-year period immediately preceding the submission of the emeritus affidavit to include the following, totaling no fewer than 5 credit hours of approved continuing legal education courses, and including:

~~(a) 3 credit hours in approved courses in the substantive area of law in which the lawyer intends to be performing pro bono services;~~

~~(b)(1) 1 credit hour approved as ethics or professional responsibility; and~~

~~(c)(2) 1 credit hour approved as elimination of bias in the legal profession and in the practice of law;~~

~~(3) 1 credit hour approved in mental health and substance use in the legal profession and in the practice of law; and~~

~~(4) either:~~

~~(a) 3 approved credit hours in the substantive area of law in which the lawyer intends to be performing pro bono services;~~

~~or~~

~~(b) confirmation from the approved legal services provider that the lawyer is qualified to represent pro bono clients in the subject matter of representation in lieu of the three credit hours in the substantive area of law.~~

~~(2) A certification signed by the emeritus lawyer, affirming that if the lawyer provides pro bono representation in multiple areas such as in a brief advice clinic, the lawyer shall obtain the necessary training and resources to provide those services in a competent and ethical manner.~~

D. Transfer to Emeritus Status. When a lawyer submits an affidavit of emeritus status, the Board office shall verify the information and shall, for a period of three years, maintain a public posting on the Board's website listing the lawyer's name as being on emeritus status.

E. Expiration of Emeritus Status. Emeritus status shall expire three years from the date that the lawyer's name is posted. A lawyer shall not represent clients after expiration of the lawyer's emeritus status.

F. Renewal of Emeritus Status. Prior to the expiration of a lawyer's emeritus status, the lawyer may renew emeritus status by submitting to the Board an affidavit of emeritus status (Appendix IV) which shall include the following:

~~(1) The list of approved CLE courses attended or participated in by the lawyer during the three year period immediately preceding the submission of the~~

~~emeritus affidavit, totaling no fewer than 5 credit hours of approved continuing legal education courses, and including~~ A list of the courses that the lawyer has attended or participated in during the one-year period immediately preceding the submission of the emeritus affidavit to include the following:

~~(a)~~ 3 credit hours in approved courses in the substantive area of law in which the lawyer intends to perform pro bono services;

~~(b)~~(a) 1 credit hour approved as ethics or professional responsibility;
and

~~(e)~~(b) 1 credit hour approved as elimination of bias in the legal profession and in the practice of law;;

(c) 1 credit hour approved in mental health and substance use in the legal profession and in the practice of law; and

(d) either:

(i) 3 approved credit hours in the substantive area of law in which the lawyer intends to be performing pro bono services;

or

(ii) confirmation from the approved legal services provider that the lawyer is qualified to represent pro bono clients in the subject matter of representation in lieu of the three credit hours in the substantive area of law.

(2) A certification signed by the emeritus lawyer, affirming that when lawyer provides pro bono representation in multiple areas such as in a brief advice clinic, lawyer shall obtain the necessary training and resources to provide those services in a competent and ethical manner.

(3) The approximate number of hours of pro bono representation the lawyer performed for each of the three prior years.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF THE SUPREME COURT
ON LAWYER REGISTRATION**

[Note: in the following amendments, deletions are indicated by a line drawn through the words and additions by a line drawn under the words.]

* * *

Rule 7. Retired Status: Inactive

- A. Retirement Affidavit.** A lawyer or judge may file a Retirement Affidavit with the Lawyer Registration Office stating that the lawyer or judge (1) ~~is at least 68 years of age,~~ (2) is in good standing with the Lawyer Registration Office, ~~(3);~~ (2) does not hold judicial office in this state and does not sit by special appointment, ~~and (4);~~ (3) is not engaged in the practice of law in any state, territory, or the District of Columbia; and (4) either: (a) is at least 68 years of age, or (b) is at least 62 years of age and commits to providing 20 hours or more of pro bono legal representation per year through an approved legal services provider, as defined in Rule 2B of the Rules of the Minnesota State Board of Continuing Legal Education.
- B. Effect.** The filing of a Retirement Affidavit with the Lawyer Registration Office places the lawyer or judge on inactive status and exempts the lawyer or judge from payment of fees while it is effective. A lawyer who files a Retirement Affidavit with the Lawyer Registration Office and who is placed on inactive status by the Lawyer Registration Office shall be transferred to voluntary restricted status by the CLE Board.
- C. Renewal; Expiration; Reporting.** A Retirement Affidavit, once filed, is effective for each succeeding year unless the lawyer or judge transfers to active status pursuant to Rule 9 or resumes the practice of law in another state, territory, or the District of Columbia. A lawyer or judge who no longer meets the requirements of this status must promptly comply with the requirements of active or inactive status, file a completed Lawyer Registration Statement with the Lawyer Registration Office, and pay the annual registration fee. Additionally, between the ages of 62 and 67, lawyers must complete an annual reporting form providing information on the type of pro bono legal representation provided and the number of hours completed in the preceding year.
- D. Emeritus Status: Authorization to Provide Pro Bono Services.** Notwithstanding the provisions of Rules 2B, 7B, and 9B regarding authorization to practice law in this state, a lawyer or judge whose Retirement Affidavit is effective may engage in

the pro bono legal representation of pro bono clients if the lawyer or judge complies with Rule 14 of the Rules of the Minnesota State Board of Continuing Legal Education.