CHAPTER 12 OF THE RULES REGULATING THE FLORIDA BAR

Emeritus Lawyers in Florida

EXPANDING ACCESS TO JUSTICE BY LEVERAGING THE EXPERIENCE OF RETIRED LAWYERS, PROFESSORS, AND IN-HOUSE COUNSEL

Presented By:
The Honorable Catherine Peek McEwen

Pptx By: Aliyah Joslin, Junior Judicial Assistant, U.S. Bankruptcy Court/Cristo Rey Tampa Salesian High School Work-Study Program

WHO?

WHO QUALIFIES AS AN EMERITUS LAWYER?

Under Rule 12-1.2 (a)(1): An Emeritus Lawyer must be one of the following:

- Inactive or retired Florida Bar member
- Inactive or retired bar member from another U.S. state/territory or D.C.
- A former judge (in FL, any U.S. state/territory, or D.C.)
- Current or former full-time law professor employed by an ABA-accredited law school.
- Authorized house counsel certified by the FL Supreme Court (Under Chapter 17 of the RPC)

EMERITUS LAWYER REQUIREMENTS

All Emeritus Lawyers must meet the following requirements under the Rule 12-1.2(a)(2):

- Not be actively practicing law, except for house counsel certified by the FL Supreme Court under Ch. 17 of the RPC;
- At least 10 of the 15 years preceding your application, you must have been engaged in active legal practice (waived for certified house counsel);
- Be in good standing with no discipline of professional misconduct in the past 15 years;
- Must not have failed FL Bar Exam 3+ times (waived for FL Bar retirees);
- Must agree to FL Rules of Professional Conduct & submit to the FL Supreme Court jurisdiction for disciplinary purposes;
- Provide services for free (cannot ask nor receive compensation for any legal services given under this rule);
- Be certified under Rule 12-1.5.

WHERE?

Approved Legal Aid Organizations

Training, mentors, and malpractice insurance provided!

LSC | America's Partner for Equal Justice

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

FFLA

FUNDING FLORIDA LEGAL AID

Approved Legal Aid Offices and Nonprofit Organizations

Approved Legal Aid Offices and Nonprofit Organizations

supremecourt.flcourts.gov/the-court/clerk/approved-legal-aid-organizations

WHAT?

Serve the Public Good Through Pro Bono Work

- Special rule that provides pro bono opportunities to lawyers who would not otherwise be permitted to practice.
- Provides legal aid to underserved populations via certified legal aid organizations.
- Helps bridge the justice gap in areas like housing, immigration, family law, and elder care.
- Share decades of wisdom with young attorneys and law students.

WHEN?

Later

Later

NOW!

Later

Later

Benefits for You

Maintain Professional Identity and Purpose While "Taking it Easy/Easier"

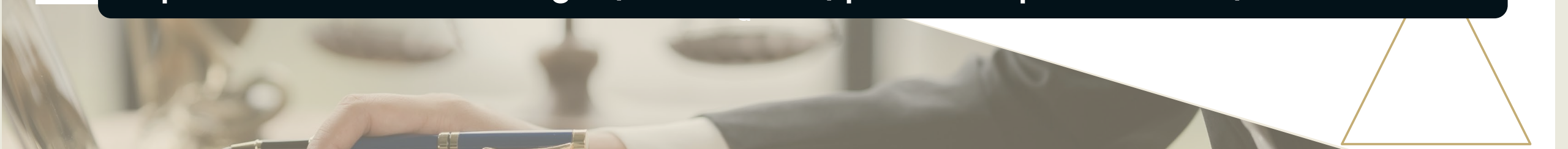
- Pro bono publico = for the public good.
- Continue using your legal skills without the burden of full licensure, required CLE, and Florida Bar membership dues.
- Stay connected to the legal community through meaningful service.
- Stay intellectually engaged (helps keep your brain healthy, too!).
- Professors: Enhance lessons with relatable, real-world experience.
- In-House Counsel: Enhance company's brand in the community.

Benefits for You

Maintain Professional Identity and Purpose While "Taking it Easy/Easier" CONT.

- Leave a legacy of service that you didn't have the time to do in past practice that reflects your values.
- Reignite your passion for justice in a new season of life.
- Flexible engagement: remote work, limited hours, and tailored assignments.
- Extend the time of honoring your Oath of Admission to represent the "defenseless and oppressed."

HOW TO GET STARTED

- Simple application process through a sponsoring Florida Supreme Court-certified legal aid organization.
  - Check your eligibility.
  - Submit your application to The Florida Bar.
  - Work under a lawyer at an approved legal aid organization.
  - Get certified and agree to follow professional rules.

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