

SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

In re: Amendments to Rules Regulating the Florida Bar—Rules 6-3.5 and 6-3.6

No. SC2025-0017 (Fla. Nov. 20, 2025) · No. SC2025-0017 · Decided November 20, 2025

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of Florida amended Rules Regulating The Florida Bar 6-3.5 and 6-3.6 concerning extensions of time to complete certification and recertification application requirements. The amendments authorize the Board of Legal Specialization and Education to grant extensions on specified requests for good cause, and in recertification matters also permit extensions upon an applicant’s request for undue hardship; they become effective January 20, 2026.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Florida
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Per Curiam; Chief Justice Muñoz; Justice Canady; Justice Labarga; Justice Couriel; Justice Grosshans; Justice Francis; Justice Sasso
JURISDICTION	Supreme Court of Florida
DECIDED	November 20, 2025
DOCKET	SC2025-0017
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Original proceeding on The Florida Bar's petition and supplemental petition proposing amendments to Rules Regulating the Florida Bar 6-3.5 and 6-3.6.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion adopting amendments to the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar

TOPICS

- rulemaking
- administrative law
- appellate procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- legal ethics and professional responsibility
- administrative law
- appellate procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Supreme Court of Florida should adopt the Florida Bar's proposed amendments to Rules Regulating the Florida Bar 6-3.5 and 6-3.6.
2. Whether the amendments should authorize the Board of Legal Specialization and Education to extend application-completion deadlines for certification and recertification upon specified requests and a showing of good cause.

HOLDINGS

1. The Supreme Court of Florida adopted the Florida Bar's revised amendments to Rules 6-3.5 and 6-3.6.
2. The amended rules authorize the Board of Legal Specialization and Education to adjust the time for completing application requirements for board certification and recertification upon a request by the executive director or Board of Governors and a showing of good cause; Rule 6-3.6 also permits an applicant-requested extension for undue hardship upon a showing of good cause.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“These amendments grant the Board of Legal Specialization and Education the authority to extend the time to complete application requirements for board certification and recertification on request by the executive director or board of governors for good cause shown.” (2)

“The amendments shall become effective January 20, 2026, at 12:01 a.m.” (2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The Florida Bar proposed amendments to Rules 6-3.5 and 6-3.6 concerning the time for completing application requirements for board certification and recertification. The Bar's Board of Governors approved the initial proposal, the proposal was published for comment, and no comments were received. The Bar then submitted a supplemental petition revising the proposal at the Court's request.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Florida Bar filed an initial petition proposing amendments to the rules governing certification and recertification. After the proposal was approved by the Bar's Board of Governors and published for comment without receiving comments, the Court requested and received a supplemental petition revising the proposal for consistency with recent rule amendments. The Supreme Court of Florida approved and adopted the revised amendments.

DISPOSITION

other

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

Supreme Court of Florida _____ No. SC2025-0017 _____ IN RE:
AMENDMENTS TO RULES REGULATING THE FLORIDA BAR – RULES 6-3.5 AND 6-3.6.
November 20, 2025 PER CURIAM. The Florida Bar has filed a petition and supplemental petition
proposing amendments to Rules Regulating The Florida Bar 6-3.5 (Standards for Certification)
and 6-3.6 (Recertification).

1 The Florida Bar’s Board of Governors approved the initial proposed amendments, and the Bar
published them for comment. No comments were received. At the request of the Court, the Bar
filed a supplemental petition revising the proposal for consistency with recent rule amendments.

Having considered the Bar’s proposal, we amend the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar as revised
by the Bar in the 1. We have jurisdiction. See art. V, § 15, Fla. Const.; see also R. Regulating Fla.
Bar 1-12.1. supplemental petition. These amendments grant the Board of Legal Specialization and
Education the authority to extend the time to complete application requirements for board
certification and recertification on request by the executive director or board of governors for good
cause shown.

Accordingly, the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar are amended as reflected in the appendix to
this opinion. New language is indicated by underscoring. The amendments shall become effective
January 20, 2026, at 12:01 a.m. It is so ordered. MUÑIZ, C.J., and CANADY, LABARGA,
COURIEL, GROSSHANS, FRANCIS, and SASSO, JJ., concur. THE FILING OF A MOTION
FOR REHEARING SHALL NOT ALTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THESE
AMENDMENTS.

Original Proceeding – Florida Rules Regulating The Florida Bar Rosalyn Sia Baker-Barnes,
President, Michael Fox Orr, President- elect, Joshua E. Doyle, Executive Director, Elizabeth Clark
Tarbert, Division Director, Lawyer Regulation, and Kelly N. Smith, Senior Attorney, The Florida
Bar, Tallahassee, Florida, for Petitioner -2- APPENDIX RULE 6-3.5. STANDARDS FOR
CERTIFICATION (a)-(e) [No Change] (f) Extensions.

The board of legal specialization and education may adjust the time for completion of the
application requirements on the executive director’s or board of governors’ request for good cause
shown, which may include, but is not limited to: (1) national or regional emergency; (2) flood,
fire, hurricane, extreme weather, or explosion; (3) disease, epidemic, pandemic, or quarantine; (4)
war, invasion, or terrorist threats or acts; (5) extended riots, protest, civil unrest, civil strife, or
political unrest; or (6) local, state, federal, or foreign government recommendation, regulation,
mandate, order, law, statute, or advisory.

Requests for extensions from individual members will not be considered. RULE 6-3.6.
RECERTIFICATION (a)-(g) [No Change] (h) Extensions. (1) The board of legal specialization
and education may adjust the time for completion of the application requirements on the executive

director's or board of governors' request for good cause shown, which may include, but is not limited to: (A) national or regional emergency; -3- (B) flood, fire, hurricane, extreme weather, or explosion; (C) disease, epidemic, pandemic, or quarantine; (D) war, invasion, or terrorist threats or acts; (E) extended riots, protest, civil unrest, civil strife, or political unrest; or (F) local, state, federal, or foreign government recommendation, regulation, mandate, order, law, statute, or advisory.

(2) The board of legal specialization and education may adjust the time for completion of the application requirements on the applicant's request for undue hardship for good cause shown. -4-