

Eligibility and Procedure for Law Student Practice

Pursuant to Local General Rule 2.1(e), the Court adopts the following eligibility and procedure for law student admission to practice before this Court.

1. Eligibility – To be eligible to practice, a law student must satisfy each of the following:
 - a. be enrolled in, or have graduated from, a law school accredited by the American Bar Association;
 - b. have completed at least one-third of the credit hours necessary for graduation from the student’s law school, with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale);
 - c. be certified by the dean of the student’s law school as being of good character and of having a working knowledge of the Federal Rules of Civil and Criminal Procedure, the Federal Rules of Evidence, and the Code of Professional Responsibility; and
 - d. be under the supervision of an attorney with a minimum of five years’ litigation experience and who is admitted in good standing to practice in this Court.

2. Admission Procedure – An eligible law student must complete each of the following prior to appearing in court:
 - a. submit a completed application (see form attached) to a judicial officer of the Western District of Michigan;
 - b. consent in writing to be subject to the Rules of Professional Conduct adopted by the Michigan Supreme Court and to the jurisdiction of this Court for purposes of disciplinary proceedings (see form attached); and
 - c. appear in person before the judicial officer to whom the application has been submitted, accompanied by the law student’s attorney supervisor, for purposes of taking the prescribed oath.

3. Requirements for Supervisor – A supervisor must:
 - a. ensure that all affected clients have knowingly and voluntarily consented in writing to the representation by the law student – for purposes of the United States and the State of Michigan, the

approval of the government attorney charged with supervising the litigation is sufficient;

- b. actively supervise the law student's written work product and preparation for court appearances;
 - c. accompany the law student in court and at other proceedings in which testimony is taken;
 - d. cosign all pleadings, motions, and other documents filed with the Court;
 - e. assist and counsel the law student with respect to all activities relating to the student's practice in this Court; and
 - f. assume responsibility for the law student's professional and ethical conduct relating to the student's practice in this Court.
4. Approved Activities – A law student admitted to practice in this Court may participate in activities as set forth below.
- a. A law student may represent a client, including federal, state or local government entities, in any civil or criminal matter to the extent the client has authorized that representation;
 - b. Any judge or magistrate judge of this Court retains the authority to limit a law student's participation in any individual case before that judge or magistrate judge.
 - c. A law student may make no binding commitments on behalf of a client without the approval of the client and the supervising attorney.
 - d. A judge or magistrate judge may terminate the admission of the law student at any time, without prior notice, hearing, or showing of cause, subject to review by the Chief Judge.
5. Compensation – An eligible law student may neither solicit nor accept compensation or remuneration of any kind for services performed pursuant to Local Rule 2.1(e) from the person on whose behalf services are rendered. This does not, however, prohibit an attorney, legal aid bureau, law school, or state or federal agency from otherwise paying compensation to an eligible law student.