## IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE, AT NASHVILLE

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IN RE: AMENDMENT OF RULE 7, RULES OF THE TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT

NO. ADM2017-02083

## MOTION OF THE KNOXVILLE BAR ASSOCIATION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO COMMENT

The Knoxville Bar Association ("KBA"), by and through its Immediate Past President, Amanda M. Busby, files this Motion respectfully requesting that the Court extend the period to file written comments on the proposal to amend Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 7, Governing Licensing of Attorneys, to March 31, 2018, to allow more time to fully consider the impact of the proposed change and how the Uniform Bar Exam ("UBE"), if adopted, could most effectively be implemented in Tennessee.

Pursuant to the Tennessee Supreme Court's Order dated October 20, 2017, in connection with the above-referenced Petition, and as noted in the KBA's comment filed with this Court on November 17, 2017, the KBA Professionalism Committee (the "Professionalism Committee") has carefully considered the request of the Board of Law Examiners ("TBLE") to adopt the UBE in Tennessee. However, even after extensive discussion during a meeting on Tuesday, November 14, the Professionalism Committee was unable to reach a consensus.

Order ADM2017-02083A set a comment deadline of January 5, 2018, but on November 6, 2017, the Tennessee Bar Association ("TBA") requested that the Supreme Court extend the

comment period until January 31, 2018. Such request was granted by the Court on November 9<sup>th</sup>, extending the comment period for the TBA only to January 31, 2018.

At the KBA Board of Governors' (the "Board") meeting held on November 15, 2017, the Professionalism Committee presented a detailed report to the Board. Among other things, questions arose as to whether the bar exam should retain Tennessee specific essay questions. If the UBE were adopted, there were also concerns about the proposed implementation date of July 2018. Some members of the Professionalism Committee believe that if the UBE were adopted that the implementation date should be extended to July 2019 to allow sufficient time for the curriculum and requirements for the mandatory post-admission local law course to be developed. Additionally, some felt that the proposed "local law course" program should be a pre-admission requirement instead of post-admission requirement as recommended by the Board of Law Examiners.

Following the Professionalism Committee's presentation and thorough discussion by the Board, the Board as a whole unanimously adopted the Professionalism Committee's recommendation to file a motion to request an extension of time to March 31, 2018. With this motion, the KBA requests that the comment period be extended to March 31, 2018, for all commenters to allow more time to fully consider the impact of the proposed change and how the UBE, if adopted, could most effectively be implemented in light of items that would need to be well coordinated such as the "local law course".

Members of the Board and members of the Professionalism Committee recognize that the practice of law has become multi-jurisdictional and that the Board of Law Examiners is requesting the change to meet the needs of lawyers who are much more mobile than they once were. The

KBA wants to consider the proposed changes carefully and seek input from law school representatives in order to provide comprehensive and constructive comments. That is what lies at the foundation of seeking an extension of the comment period.

As always, the KBA appreciates the opportunity to comment on proposed Rules promulgated by the Tennessee Supreme Court and we look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience regarding this extension request.

Respectfully submitted this 4th day of January, 2018.

KNOXVILLE BAR ASSOCATION

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## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served upon the individuals and organizations identified in Exhibit "A" by regular U.S. Mail, postage prepaid within seven (7) days of filing with the Court.

Amanda M. Busby

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