

FILED

OCT 19 2011

Clerk of the Courts

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE**

**IN RE: ADR COMMISSION'S PETITION FOR THE ADOPTION OF
AMENDED TENN. SUP. CT. RULE 31**

No. M2011-01453-SC-RL1-RL - Filed: October 19, 2011

ORDER

On July 5, 2011, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission filed a petition asking the Court to amend Section 2(b) of Rule 31, Rules of the Tennessee Supreme Court. The Court published the Commission's proposed amendment and solicited written comments from the bench, the bar, and the public. The deadline for submitting comments concerning the proposed amendment was Thursday, September 15, 2011. No written comments were received.

The Court hereby amends Section 2(b) of Rule 31, Rules of the Supreme Court of Tennessee, to read as follows:

(b) "Baccalaureate degree" and "graduate degree" are only those degrees awarded by an institution of higher education accredited by an agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education (CHEA) and approved or listed by the United States Department of Education as a recognized accrediting agency. A law degree from an educational institution recognized by the Tennessee Board of Law Examiners for the purpose of allowing its graduates to be eligible to take the Tennessee bar examination shall be deemed a graduate degree for the purpose of this rule. Degrees earned outside the United States shall be evaluated on a case by case basis by the Commission in order to determine whether the degree is substantially equal to a like and similar degree earned in this country and which degree if earned in this country would have been subject to the standards and academic quality which would be mandated by the foregoing accreditation process and procedure in this country.

This amendment to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 31 shall take effect upon the filing of this order.

The Clerk shall provide a copy of this order to LexisNexis and to Thomson Reuters. In addition, this order shall be posted on the Tennessee Supreme Court's website

IT IS SO ORDERED.

PER CURIAM