

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

1. In Re: Petition to Amend Supreme Court Rule 7, Section 10.03 –

Business Law Clinic Pilot Program

No. M2002-02070-SC-RL1-RL - Filed February 13, 2003

ORDER

The petitioners have filed a petition seeking this Court's approval of a pilot program that establishes a Business Law Clinic at the University of Tennessee College of Law and an amendment to Rule 7, section 10.03 of the Tennessee Supreme Court Rules. The petitioners are the University of Memphis School of Law, Vanderbilt University Law School, and the University of Tennessee College of Law.

According to the petition, the University of Tennessee College of Law has created a program that would allow third-year law students to provide legal services of a transactional nature under the supervision of full-time faculty to persons and entities unable to afford legal counsel. The petitioners assert that a Business Law Clinic of this nature will train students in transactional, non-litigation areas of practice and will advance the cause of equal access to justice by assisting persons who are financially unable to hire an attorney. The petition describes the proposed pilot program, including its structure, goals, prospective client referral sources and client screening, projects, and faculty involvement. The Board of Law Examiners has recommended approval of the pilot program.

After due consideration it is ORDERED that the petition for approval of the pilot program establishing a Business Law Clinic at the University of Tennessee College of Law is granted. The petitioners shall also file quarterly reports with the Board of Law Examiners that include the client screening procedures used, a list of clients, and the services provided.

To assist in implementing the pilot program, it is further ORDERED that Rule 7, section 10.3, of the Tennessee Supreme Court Rules is amended to include a new subsection (e), as follows:

(e) Any senior law student participating in a law school legal clinic program approved under section (c) above, may provide legal services not covered by section (a) of this Rule to persons or entities not financially able to afford counsel, provided that the specific legal clinic program through which the legal services are provided has been approved by the Supreme Court upon petition of the legal clinic director.

The pilot program shall continue for one year from the date of this order, after which time the Court will consider its permanent implementation.

For the Court:

Frank F. Drowota, III, Chief Justice

