



**Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20543**

November 16, 2018

CHIEF JUSTICE DIRECTIVE NO. 7

In exercise of my implied constitutional authority as administrative head of the judicial system, and pursuant to the Efficient Function and General Duties Act, I direct as follows:

Section 1. Findings. In light of existing circumstances, I find that:

(1) At the present moment, the requirement of Federal Bar membership to practice law (the "licensing requirement") presents an immense obstacle to those who wish to enter the legal practice;

(2) The provisional licensing system has not, for a variety of reasons beyond the control of the Board of Law Examiners, been able to rectify these issues;

(3) The massive barrier to entry currently imposed by the licensing requirement at the moment cannot be justified by any countervailing benefits not achievable in other, less intrusive ways; and

(4) These factors, taken together, justify immediate action in furtherance of the effective administration of justice.

Section 2. Suspension. The licensing requirement is suspended indefinitely. While the Board of Law Examiners is authorized and directed to continue processing and approving applications for Federal Bar licenses, the lack of such a license, for the time being, shall not prevent any person from practicing law in the United States.

Section 3. Reinstatement. On account of the fact that the licensing requirement's suspension is

only temporary, there shall be a Legal Practice Status Review Committee consisting of six members (three named by myself; three named by the Attorney General) which shall carry out a continuous overview of the legal practice and which shall make recommendations pertaining to the eventual reinstatement of the licensing requirement.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "O. W. Holmes", written in a cursive style.

OLIVER W. HOLMES
CHIEF JUSTICE

CC: Speaker of the House;
President pro tempore.