

CLIENT ADVISORY

March 15, 2021

April 16 – May 3 Pause in Accepting D.C. Bar Applications

The D.C. Court of Appeals' Committee on Admissions ("the Committee") announced that it will pause the acceptance of bar applications for two weeks from April 16 – May 3, 2021 to upgrade its application system. The pause has practical implications for all those who are currently applying, or planning to apply in the near future, to the D.C. Bar.

What's happening?

The current D.C. Bar application process requires that applicants first submit their NCBE Character and Fitness Questionnaire/supplement, and then create an account for filing and payment. The new system will consolidate this two-step process into a single step, allowing applicants to submit the documents and provide the necessary payment information in one place. The Committee announced the update on March 7, 2021, noting that the new system will "reduc[e] the turnaround time and expedit[e] certification on applications."ⁱ The Committee notes that the NCBE investigation will not be impacted by the pause.

What should a bar applicant do?

If you want to apply to the D.C. Bar before the two-week pause, you must submit your NCBE Character and Fitness Questionnaire/supplement and payment in the current system by April 15. If you have a saved draft application it will be deleted after April 15, so be sure to either submit your application if it is ready, or ensure you save all the information contained in the application somewhere other than the bar application system. On April 16, the bar application system will be paused, meaning that applicants cannot create accounts or submit payments until May 3, 2021. However, applicants can submit NCBE Character and Fitness Questionnaire/supplemental documents during the April 16 through May 3 window, and then create an account and submit payment when the new system is live on May 3.

What if I have questions?

For more information, please go to <https://newsroom.dccourts.gov/press-releases/dc-court-of-appeals-announces-2-week-pause-in-bar-application-process-in-late-april-for-new-system>.

And, as always, feel free to contact the Legal Ethics Group at Harris, Wiltshire & Grannis, LLP with any questions.

ⁱ See *DC COURT OF APPEALS ANNOUNCES 2-WEEK PAUSE IN BAR APPLICATION PROCESS IN LATE APRIL FOR NEW SYSTEM*, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS NEWSROOM (March 7, 2021), <https://newsroom.dccourts.gov/press-releases/dc-court-of-appeals-announces-2-week-pause-in-bar-application-process-in-late-april-for-new-system>.