First 63 applicants for Florida’s temporary supervised legal practice program for Bar applicants approved due to the coronavirus pandemic

The Florida Board of Bar Examiners has announced the approval of the first 63 applicants for a supervised legal practice program for summer bar exam applicants put in place when pandemic conditions and online testing software failures led to delays in the summer 2020 Florida Bar exam.

The program was set up by an order of the Florida Supreme Court. It provides some applicants a means to begin limited work in the law even before they have taken the Bar exam as required for admission to The Florida Bar. Applicants will work under the direct supervision of licensed Florida attorneys.

Under existing court rules, the Bar exam is given in-person at the end of each February and July. The pandemic forced the cancellation of the in-person July exam in the interest of the health and safety of applicants. The failure of online professional testing software forced further delays for a replacement exam that had been planned in August.

Bar exam applicants who wish to apply for the supervised practice program should check the Board’s website for the application and updates. Florida Supreme Court orders on this subject also are available.