

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN THE MATTER OF AMENDMENTS
TO SUPREME COURT RULE 10.

ADKT 0362

FILED

MAY 21 2015

TRACIE K. LINDEMAN
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY 
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

ORDER AMENDING SUPREME COURT RULE 10

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2015, the Honorable Michael Cherry and the Honorable Mark Gibbons, Associate Justices filed a petition seeking amendment of Supreme Court Rule 10; and

WHEREAS, this court solicited comment from the bench, bar, and public on the proposed rule amendments; and

WHEREAS, this court has determined that the proposed amendments to Supreme Court Rule 10 are warranted; accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Supreme Court Rule 10 shall be amended as set forth in Exhibit A.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that these amendments shall be effective 30 days from the date of this order. The clerk of this court shall cause a notice of entry of this order to be published in the official publication of the State Bar of Nevada. Publication of this order shall be accomplished by the clerk disseminating copies of this order to all subscribers of the advance sheets of the Nevada Reports and all persons and agencies listed in NRS 2.345, and to the executive director of the State

Bar of Nevada. The certificate of the clerk of this court as to the accomplishment of the above-described publication of notice of entry and dissemination of this order shall be conclusive evidence of the adoption and publication of the foregoing rule amendments.

Dated this 21st day of May, 2015.

Hardesty, C.J.
Hardesty

Parraguirre, J.
Parraguirre

Douglas, J.
Douglas

Cherry, J.
Cherry

Saitta, J.
Saitta

Gibbons, J.
Gibbons

Pickering, J.
Pickering

cc: Elana T. Graham, President, State Bar of Nevada
Kimberly Farmer, Executive Director, State Bar of Nevada
Clark County Bar Association
Washoe County Bar Association
Administrative Office of the Courts

EXHIBIT A

AMENDMENT TO SUPREME COURT RULE 10

Rule 10. Senior justices and judges; designation; service as settlement judge; assignment; duties and powers; compensation and expenses; oath; discipline and removal.

1. **Eligibility for recall.** The supreme court may recall a former supreme court justice, court of appeals judge, or district judge to active service as a senior justice or senior judge of the Nevada court system, provided that:

(a) He or she has served as a supreme court justice, court of appeals judge, or district judge, or any combination thereof, for at least four consecutive years; and

(b) He or she is eligible to retire or has retired under the provisions of the Nevada Revised Statutes; and

(c) He or she was not removed or retired for cause or defeated for retention in an election for the judicial office that he or she seeks to be recalled for service.

2. **Application.** A former supreme court justice, court of appeals judge, or district judge who meets the requirements of subsection 1 of this rule may apply to be commissioned as a senior justice or judge by filing with the clerk of the supreme court a written application on a form approved by the supreme court. The approved application forms shall be available at the supreme court clerk's office.

3. **Investigation and approval.** The supreme court may refer an applicant to the administrative office of the courts or the commission on judicial selection for investigation into the background and qualifications of

the applicant and for a recommendation as to whether the applicant should receive a commission as a senior justice or judge. If the supreme court determines that the applicant remains physically and mentally capable of performing valuable judicial service on a continuing basis, and that the applicant's recall to active service will promote the effective administration of justice, a commission, duly executed and authenticated by the chief justice and clerk, shall thereupon issue under the seal of the supreme court.

4. **Term of commission.** Each senior justice or judge being recalled to service shall serve a term of one year, unless the term is earlier terminated or the senior justice or judge voluntarily resigns his or her commission. The renewal of the one-year term for a senior justice or judge shall be as follows:

(a) Judges who have retired [~~or who are eligible to retire~~] and who are not currently serving as a senior justice or judge may apply for a commission to serve as a senior judge at any time;

(b) The renewal date of the terms of senior justices or judges recalled after adoption of this rule shall be July 1 of each year; however, the supreme court may, in its sole discretion, elect not to renew the commission of a senior justice or judge at the end of that judge's one-year term;

(c) No later than May 1 of each year, a senior justice or judge wishing to continue to serve may request a new commission. The supreme court may require additional information or evaluation prior to extending any judge's term.

(d) Any extended commission shall be for one year.

(e) The supreme court may further provide for continuing educational requirements for senior justices or judges as a condition for issuing a commission.

5. **Extra-judicial employment.** A senior justice or judge is ineligible to practice law in any of the courts of this state or to accept employment which contemplates giving advice on legal matters and shall not be a member of or associated with a firm or attorney that practices law. A senior justice or judge may, however, serve as a private mediator or arbitrator for compensation provided that the case or matter being mediated or arbitrated did not first come to the senior justice or judge while serving in his or her capacity as senior justice or judge. A senior justice or judge may work for a private arbitration/mediation firm or company that is not affiliated directly or indirectly with a private law firm. Notwithstanding Canon 4C(3) of the Nevada Code of Judicial Conduct, a senior justice or judge may serve as an officer, director, manager, or employee of a business, but full disclosure of such activity shall in all cases be made a matter of record, and the participation of such justice or judge may in all cases be precluded by any party through a timely objection made before consideration of any contested matter.

6. **Eligibility for assignment.** A senior justice or judge, with his or her consent, is eligible for temporary assignment to any state court at or below the level of the court in which he or she was serving at the time of retirement or leaving office, provided that the justice or judge previously served at least two years in that office of temporary assignment and provided that the judge was not removed or retired for cause from that judicial office or defeated for retention in an election for that office. A senior justice or senior court of appeal's judge is eligible for temporary assignment to the court of appeals. If designated by the governor, at the request of the chief justice or the chief justice's designee, a senior justice or judge may also hear specific cases in the supreme court upon disqualification of a justice thereof. A senior

justice or judge may also be assigned to act as a settlement judge in any state court. But no senior justice or judge may serve as a settlement judge unless that justice or judge completes a course in alternative dispute resolution offered by the National Judicial College, or a similar course of study approved by the chief justice. The chief justice may, in appropriate circumstances, waive the educational requirement for service as a settlement judge.

The cost of any course taken by a senior justice or judge to qualify that justice or judge to serve as a settlement judge shall be paid from funds appropriated for judicial education or from the senior judge budget if approved by the chief justice.

7. Temporary assignment to district court. A district court requiring supplemental judicial assistance may request that the supreme court temporarily assign a senior justice or judge to that court. Any request for a temporary assignment must be submitted to the Administrative Office of the Courts in a form and manner prescribed by that office. The chief justice or the chief justice's designee shall approve the assignment in writing. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall advise the district court of the assignment by issuing an assignment memorandum signed by the chief justice or the chief justice's designee.

8. Temporary assignment to supreme court. The temporary assignment of a senior justice to the supreme court shall be made by order signed by the chief justice or the chief justice's designee and filed with the clerk of the supreme court. The chief justice, as in the case of sitting district court judges, may request the governor to issue a special commission assigning a senior judge to hear and determine a case in the supreme court.

9. Duties and powers. Each senior justice or judge assigned as provided in this rule has all the judicial powers and duties, while serving

under the assignment, of a regularly elected and qualified justice or judge of the court to which he or she is assigned. Without specific assignment, senior justices and judges may perform routine ministerial acts, including the solemnization of marriages, and the administering of oaths, but shall not admit to bail any person accused of crime.

10. **Compensation.** A senior justice or judge assigned as provided in this rule shall receive as compensation for the time actually engaged in the performance of duties under the assignment an amount proportional to the gross monthly salary of a regularly elected and qualified judge of the court on which he or she qualified for retirement. The compensation shall be paid upon the certificate of the justice or judge that the services were performed for the number of hours shown in the certificate.

Each senior justice or judge shall be deemed to have a home court. The home court for a judge residing in Nevada is the district court closest to his or her residence. If a judge has more than one residence, the home court is the district court closest to the assignment. For a judge residing outside of Nevada, the home court is the district court closest to the assignment to which the judge can fly or drive.

A senior justice or judge shall be entitled to compensation for travel time, travel expenses and per diem expenses as set forth in the Supreme Court Policy for Administration of the Senior Judge Program.

11. **Oath.** To accept a commission as a senior justice or judge, a former supreme court justice or district judge must take, subscribe and file with the clerk of the supreme court, the following oath or affirmation:

“I,, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States, and the Constitution and Government of the State of Nevada, against all

enemies, whether domestic or foreign, and that I will bear true faith, allegiance and loyalty to the same, any ordinance, resolution or law of any State notwithstanding, and that I will well and faithfully perform all the duties of the office of a senior justice (or judge) of the Nevada court system on which I am about to enter; (if an oath) so help me God; (if an affirmation) under the pains and penalties of perjury.”

12. **Discipline and removal.** The supreme court may for cause revoke the commission of any senior justice or judge, either following notice and opportunity for hearing before the court, or after proceedings before the commission on judicial discipline. The supreme court may temporarily suspend the commission of any senior justice or judge.