

**District of Columbia
Court of Appeals**



No. M-269-20

BEFORE: Blackburne-Rigsby, Chief Judge; Glickman, Fisher, Thompson, Beckwith, Easterly, McLeese, and Deahl, Associate Judges.

NOTICE

(FILED – July 29, 2020)

The current COVID-19 emergency has required cancellation of the July 2020 D.C. Bar Examination and the scheduling of an online exam for October 2020. In connection with those developments, the court has been asked to (a) establish a procedure to admit law-school graduates without requiring them to take and pass a bar exam (“diploma privilege”) and/or (b) broaden the circumstances in which law-school graduates who have not yet been admitted to the D.C. Bar (or perhaps any bar) can temporarily practice law. The court is considering those requests, although the court intends to go forward with the October 2020 online exam in any event. Given the importance of the issue, the court wishes to receive comments from the public before deciding how to proceed with the requests at issue. Given the need for a prompt decision, any comments must be provided to the court within fourteen days of the issuance of this notice.

Interested parties are encouraged to address, among other things, the following topics:

-- What specific needs of prospective lawyers, clients, and employers would be addressed by granting a diploma privilege or expanding the scope of temporary practice? What specific concerns would be raised by taking either step?

-- What limits or conditions should be imposed on any diploma privilege or expanded temporary practice?

-- What role can or should law schools and the Bar play in addressing these issues?

This notice is published to afford interested parties an opportunity to submit written comments concerning the requests under consideration. As previously noted, comments must be submitted by August 12, 2020. Comments may be submitted electronically to rules@dcappeals.gov, or in writing, addressed to the Clerk, D.C. Court of Appeals, 430 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. All comments submitted pursuant to this notice will be available to the public.