

FAQ: The 3d-Year Practice Rule: Certification as a Legal Intern under the NC State Bar Rule Governing Supervised Limited Practice By Law Students - Important information for 2L and 3L students interested in gaining practical experience in in-court representation in legal internships or in the law school's clinical programs

Under Subchapter C, Sections .0200 through .0207 of the NC State Bar Rules, law students who have completed at least three semesters are eligible for certification as a legal intern ("3d Year Practice Rule certification" for short). Certification allows the student to provide representation to indigent clients under the supervision of a licensed attorney, including giving legal advice to the client and appearing in court. NCCU Law students who enroll in the "field" portions of our clinic courses will need to go through the certification process in order to participate and gain the full benefit of the clinical training.

The certification process involves several steps, including completing an application, obtaining a letter of good standing from the law school, and obtaining a letter from the attorney who will be supervising the student. At NCCU Law *all* students who wish to be certified, including those who are working for private attorneys and agencies but are not enrolled in a Clinic, *must* go through the Clinic office to obtain certification; this allows the law school to track all students who are certified, as we are required to do for ABA and State Bar purposes. *An essential part of the certification process* is attending a mandatory 2-hour Ethics and Professionalism Seminar for clinical students presented by the Clinic faculty. This seminar is typically offered soon after the beginning of the Spring semester each year.

To facilitate the certification process for students, the Clinic has prepared a packet of forms and information. You can obtain this packet on the TWEN page for the Clinical Legal Education Program, on the clinic website, or from Ms. Samantha Perry the administrative assistant for the Clinic, in the Clinic office. You can also read the Rules on-line at http://www.ncbar.com/rules/rul_adv.asp?type=R.

Note: The Supervising Attorney should fill in the blanks and type the following letter on his/her stationery. A copy of this letter should be signed and sent to Pamela Glean at the address listed below.

January 3, 2010

Mr. Tom Lunsford,
Executive Director
North Carolina State Bar
PO Box 25908
Raleigh, NC 27611

Re: Application of _____ for Certification Pursuant
to the Rules Governing the Practical Training of Law Students

Dear Mr. Lunsford:

Please take notice that during the period commencing _____,
20__, and ending _____, 20__, I will provide adequate supervision of
the above applicant, _____, in accordance with the North Carolina
Rules Governing the Practical Training of Law Students. _____
is a student at North Carolina Central University School of Law.

In the event that my supervision of _____ should cease prior to
_____, 20__, I will promptly notify you of that fact.

Yours truly,

Supervising Attorney

Copy to:

Pamela Glean
Director of Clinical Programs
North Carolina Central University
School of Law – Clinical Program
640 Nelson Street
Durham, NC 27707

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
PRACTICAL TRAINING OF LAW STUDENTS PROGRAM
LAW SCHOOL CERTIFICATION
Rules Governing the Practical Training of Law Students
27 N.C.A.C 1C, Section .0200

Application of: _____
(Student's Name)

(Street)

(City, State, & Zip)

The undersigned certifies as follows:

_____ is duly enrolled in a law school approved by the American Bar Association, is in good standing in said law school, and has satisfactorily completed the equivalent of three semesters of the requirements for a professional degree in law (J.D. or its equivalent). The law student is also of good character with the requisite legal ability and training to perform as a legal intern pursuant to the Rules Governing the Practical Training of Law Students. I am authorized by the dean of said law school to provide this certification.

(Signature) (Date)

Wendy Scott

(Print name)

Associate Dean

(Title)

North Carolina Central University School of Law

(School)

640 Nelson Street

(Mailing Address)

Durham, NC 27707

(City, State, Zip Code)

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
PRACTICAL TRAINING OF LAW STUDENTS PROGRAM
STUDENT'S CERTIFICATION**

Rules Governing the Practical Training of Law Students
27 N.C.A.C. 1C, Rule .0203

I, _____, certify as follows:
(Type name)

I am a student regularly enrolled and in good standing in a law school approved by the American Bar Association. I have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of three semesters of the requirements for a first profession degree in law (J.D. or its equivalent). I have read and am familiar with the Revised Rules of Professional Conduct of the North Carolina State Bar and the opinions interpretive thereof.

(Signature)

(Date)

Address: _____

Return form to:

Dottie Miani
NC State Bar
PO Box 25908
Raleigh, NC 27611