BECOMING A MONTANA LAWYER

MONTANA LEGISLATURE OFFICE OF RESEARCH & POLICY ANALYSIS

A Road Map to Admission

The <u>Rules for Admission to the Bar of Montana</u> are promulgated and adopted by the Montana Supreme Court under its constitutional authority to regulate the practice of law. The Rules set out the requirements for attorney admission to the State Bar of Montana. A new college graduate wishing to become a lawyer in Montana must take the following steps:

STEP ONE

Education

- Take the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) or the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
- Graduate with a Juris Doctor degree from a law school accredited by the American Bar Association

STEP TWO



• Apply for

admission to the
State Bar of
Montana by
submitting
required fees and
paperwork

STEP THREE



Character &Fitness

 Undergo a character and fitness review overseen by the Montana Commission on Character and Fitness with assistance from the National Conference of Bar Examiners

STEP FOUR



Ethics

• Pass the Multistate Professional
Responsibility
Examination
(MPRE)
administered by
the National
Conference of Bar
Examiners

STEP FIVE



- Pass the Uniform Bar Exam, overseen by the Board of Bar Examiners
- Complete the Montana Law Seminar, covering Montana-specific legal topics and law

STEP SIX



- Appear before the Montana Supreme Court, where a current member will move for the applicant's admission to the State Bar
- Take an oath to support the U.S.
 Constitution, the <u>Constitution of the</u> <u>State of Montana</u>, and to abide by the <u>Montana Rules of</u> <u>Professional Conduct</u>
- Sign the attorney roll maintained by the Clerk of the Montana Supreme Court and become an officer of the court