



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
2211 UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE
75 TED TURNER DRIVE, S.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-3309

KEVIN P. WEIMER
DISTRICT COURT EXECUTIVE AND CLERK OF COURT

(404) 215-1610

June 30, 2026

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LOCAL RULE AMENDMENTS
AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia has approved amendments to Local Rule 83.1(A) and (B) to allow attorneys employed by the Federal Defender Program, Inc., to have provisional admission to the Court for eighteen months while they pursue membership in the State Bar of Georgia. The amendments also clarify that an admission ceremony is not required but may be requested through the clerk's office.

Redline and clean copies of the amendments are attached to this notice and are available for review on the Court's website at www.gand.uscourts.gov and at the clerk's office public counter in each courthouse. A copy of the current text of Local Rule 83.1(A) and (B) is also attached for reference.

Members of the bar and public are invited to submit written comments on these amendments until July 31, 2026. Please address all comments to:

Kevin P. Weimer
District Court Executive and Clerk of Court
2211 United States Courthouse
75 Ted Turner Drive, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
LRCComments@gand.uscourts.gov

Redline Version of Proposed Amendments

LR 83: RULES BY DISTRICT COURTS

LR 83.1 ATTORNEYS: ADMISSION TO PRACTICE BEFORE THE COURT

(A) Admission to the Bar of this Court.

(1) Eligibility. Any attorney who is an active member of the State Bar of Georgia in good standing is eligible for admission to this Court's bar. Continued admission is contingent on an attorney's maintaining active membership in good standing with the State Bar of Georgia.

(2) Admission Procedure.

(a) Application. Applicants for admission must complete the admission process through pacer.uscourts.gov and, following approval of the application, pay the admission fee. Once an applicant pays the fee, the applicant is deemed a member of this Court's bar with no further action required.

(b) Optional Admissions Ceremonies. ~~Optional admissions ceremonies will be held monthly in open court for any applicant who chooses to attend. The clerk of court also will schedule a ceremonial admissions day each year for attorneys who recently passed the Georgia Bar Examination. An admission ceremony is not required. However, if desired, a ceremony may be requested through the clerk's office.~~

(c) Oath. The following oath must be administered to each attorney at the time of admission:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Government of the United States; that I will maintain the respect due to the courts of justice and judicial offices; that I will well and faithfully discharge my duties as an attorney and officer of this Court; and that I will demean myself uprightly and according to the law and the recognized standards of ethics of the legal profession. So help me God."

(3) Attorneys for the United States or Employed by the Federal Defender Program, Inc. Attorneys representing the United States government or any agency thereof or employed by the Federal Defender Program, Inc., who reside within this district but are not yet members of the State Bar of Georgia must be admitted to this Court's bar before they may practice before this Court. Notwithstanding this requirement, these attorneys will be allowed 18 months from the date of their appointment or commission within which to become members of the State Bar of Georgia, provided that they at all times are members in good standing of the bar of another United States district court. These attorneys will be deemed provisionally admitted to the bar of this Court until they are formally admitted. The requirements of this rule do not apply to government attorneys who are expressly exempted by statute from the necessity of local bar membership or to judge advocates of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Air Force representing the United States before a magistrate judge.

Attorneys representing the United States government or any agency thereof or employed by the Federal Defender Program, Inc., who do not reside in this district need not be admitted to practice before this Court provided that they at all times are members in good standing of the bar of another United States district court.

(B) Permission to Appear *Pro Hac Vice*.

(1) Eligibility. An attorney who does not represent the United States government or any agency thereof or is not employed by the Federal Defender Program, Inc., may apply in writing for permission to appear *pro hac vice* in a particular case if the attorney (1) is not an active member in good standing of the State Bar of Georgia but is a member in good standing of the bar of any United States court or of the highest court of any State or (2) is an active member in good standing of the State Bar of Georgia but does not reside in this district.

Except as set forth in LR 83.1(A)(3), an attorney must be admitted in any case in which the attorney will appear in this Court on behalf of a party, apply for fees, sign his or her name to a document filed with the Court, or otherwise substantially participate in preparing or presenting a case. This requirement does not mean that every attorney within a law firm providing legal services that may be included in a fee request must be admitted *pro hac vice* so long as attorneys within the firm who have appeared in the case are directing that work and are either (1)

admitted to the bar of this Court as regular members or (2) have been admitted *pro hac vice* in the particular case.

(2) Application Process. Applications for admission *pro hac vice* may be obtained from the clerk. The applicant must state, under penalty of perjury, the following:

(a) the applicant's residential address, office address, telephone number, and email address;

(b) all courts to which the applicant has been admitted to practice and the dates of admission;

(c) that the applicant is in good standing and eligible to practice in all courts to which the applicant has been admitted; and

(d) that the applicant either does not reside in the district or is not a member of the State Bar of Georgia.

(3) Fees and Permission. Applications for admission *pro hac vice* must be accompanied by payment of a prescribed admission fee. Except as otherwise ordered by the presiding judge for good cause, an applicant for admission *pro hac vice* will not be permitted to appear until the application has been granted by the district judge to whom the case is assigned or, in cases in which the parties have consented to a magistrate judge presiding, the magistrate judge to whom the case is assigned.

(4) Designation, Qualifications, and Duties of Local Counsel. An attorney applying to appear *pro hac vice* must designate local counsel with whom opposing counsel and the Court readily may communicate regarding the conduct of the case and upon whom papers may be served. Except as otherwise ordered by the presiding judge for good cause, the designated local counsel must maintain an office in this district and be a member in good standing of the bar of this Court and the State Bar of Georgia. Local counsel must file the application for admission *pro hac vice* and must verify the bar admission status of the attorney being sponsored for admission. The address, telephone number, email address, and written consent of local counsel must be filed with the application. Local counsel must authorize and sign all pleadings and other papers filed in the case by the attorney appearing *pro hac vice*. Accordingly, local counsel is subject to Fed. R. Civ. P. 11.

(5) Effect of Failure to Respond by Attorney Appearing *Pro Hac Vice*. If the attorney appearing *pro hac vice* fails to respond to any order of the Court for appearance or otherwise, local counsel will have the responsibility and full authority to act on behalf of the client in all proceedings related to the case, including hearings, pretrial conferences, and trial.

Clean Version of Proposed Amendments

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(2) Admission Procedure.

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(b) Optional Admission Ceremony. An admission ceremony is not required. However, if desired, a ceremony may be requested through the clerk's office.

(c) Oath. The following oath must be administered to each attorney at the time of admission:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Government of the United States; that I will maintain the respect due to the courts of justice and judicial offices; that I will well and faithfully discharge my duties as an attorney and officer of this Court; and that I will demean myself uprightly and according to the law and the recognized standards of ethics of the legal profession. So help me God."

(3) Attorneys for the United States or Employed by the Federal Defender Program, Inc. Attorneys representing the United States government or any agency thereof or employed by the Federal Defender Program, Inc., who reside

within this district but are not yet members of the State Bar of Georgia must be admitted to this Court's bar before they may practice before this Court. Notwithstanding this requirement, these attorneys will be allowed 18 months from the date of their appointment or commission within which to become members of the State Bar of Georgia, provided that they at all times are members in good standing of the bar of another United States district court. These attorneys will be deemed provisionally admitted to the bar of this Court until they are formally admitted. The requirements of this rule do not apply to government attorneys who are expressly exempted by statute from the necessity of local bar membership or to judge advocates of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Air Force representing the United States before a magistrate judge.

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(5) Effect of Failure to Respond by Attorney Appearing *Pro Hac Vice*. If the attorney appearing *pro hac vice* fails to respond to any order of the Court for appearance or otherwise, local counsel will have the responsibility and full authority to act on behalf of the client in all proceedings related to the case, including hearings, pretrial conferences, and trial.

Current Text of Local Rule 83.1(A) and (B)

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