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SCMF-12-0000538

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

In the Matter of the
SEPTEMBER 2020 BAR EXAM

CONCURRENCE
(By: Wilson, J.)

I join the Order Regarding the September 2020 Bar Exam In Light Of Covid-19. However, the unprecedented risk to those preparing for the September 9-10, 2020 bar exam due to the pandemic emergency declared by the Governor; the inherent stress and distraction exacted upon bar applicants from the pandemic; and the increased risk and stress to bar applicants from the inevitable increase in out-of-state travelers who will be permitted to visit Hawai'i without quarantine after September 1, 2020 warrant the granting of a one-time diploma privilege to all graduates of the University of Hawai'i, William S. Richardson School of Law, who qualified for the September bar exam. Admission to the bar pursuant to the diploma privilege would require completion of the character

and fitness requirements of Rule 1.3(c) of the Rules of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawai'i (RSCH) and a passing score on the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam pursuant to RSCH Rule 1.3(g)(6). A person admitted to the bar pursuant to the diploma privilege would be a fully licensed member of the bar with the same rights and responsibilities as other bar members.¹

DATED: Honolulu, Hawai'i, July 22, 2020.

/s/ Michael D. Wilson

Associate Justice



¹ The Oregon Supreme Court per its Order Approving 2020 Attorney Admissions Process (June 30, 2020) has taken similar action to address the COVID-19 burden upon bar applicants, particularly those graduating from Oregon law schools and applicants from law schools whose graduates scored 86 percent or better when taking the bar for the first time in 2019. The state of Wisconsin grants admission to the Wisconsin bar to graduates of Wisconsin law schools without any apparent negative affect upon the competency of the bar or the ethical practice of law. See, Bar Exam Does Little to Ensure Attorney Competence, Say Lawyers in Diploma Privilege State, ABA Journal (April 21, 2020).