



TENNESSEE BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS

511 UNION STREET, SUITE 525

NASHVILLE, TN 37219

WWW.TNBLE.ORG

BLE.ADMINISTRATOR@TNCOURTS.GOV

LAW DEGREE VERIFICATION AND DEAN CERTIFICATION FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS

Beginning with applications for the July 2016 Tennessee Bar Examination, new forms are required to be completed by the law schools for any first time applicant to the Bar of Tennessee. Each First-Time Applicant by Examination to the Tennessee Bar must cause to be provided verification of the law degree and certifications of character and fitness from every law school the applicant attended. Included in this document are the following forms:

I. Applicant's Authorization and Release (Page 1)

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete the Authorization and Release Form (page 1) and sign under oath and in the presence of a notary. Forward the Authorization and Release with the appropriate related forms (from the list below) to the Dean of your law school or other appropriate official for completion. Complete the information in the box at the top of each form and forward to your law school(s) with the Authorization and Release form. The completed forms must be forwarded directly by your law school to the office of the Tennessee Board of Law Examiners at the above address.

II. Law Degree Verification Form and Certificate of Dean of Law School (Pages 2 and 3)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LAW SCHOOLS: Once complete, this two page form should be forwarded directly to the office of the Tennessee Board of Law Examiners at the address above (**note the new zip code**) and not sent to the student. This form must be received by the final deadline for filing applications, **Dec. 20** for the February exam and **May 20** for the July exam. If grades and graduation information is not available, the school can submit the form with the anticipated date and submit the Late Degree Confirmation Form (Item III) to verify completion of all requirements for graduation. This form is also used if the Applicant attended but did not graduate from a law school.

III. Late Confirmation of Degree Form (Page 4)

This form is retained by the school and used to verify completion of all requirements for graduation if Applicant had not completed requirements for graduation when the Law Degree Verification form was submitted. The form must be received by the Board of Law Examiners on or before the Friday immediately preceding the exam or the Applicant will not be eligible to sit for the examination.

IV. Non-ABA Accredited Law School Disclosure (Page 5)

INSTRUCTIONS: Applicants seeking admission by examination who attended a law school approved by the state in which it is located but not ABA accredited, pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. Rule 7, Section 2.02(c), must provide certain additional law school disclosures. Please complete this form and return on or before the deadline (Dec 20 for February exam; May 20 for July exam). NOTE: This information is not required from ABA accredited law schools and law schools located in Tennessee approved pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 7.

NOTE: Applicants to the Bar of Tennessee are responsible for ensuring that all documents are submitted to the Board of Law Examiners in a timely manner. As such, the Applicant must submit the Law Degree Verification to the law school with sufficient time for it to be processed prior to the deadline for applications. For the **February** exam, forms must be received on or before **December 20**; for the **July** exam, forms must be received by **May 20**. **The Board of Law Examiners will not consider forms received after the deadline and the Applicant will not be eligible to sit for the examination.**

AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE OF APPLICANT

TENNESSEE BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS
511 UNION STREET, SUITE 525
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37219

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT:

I, _____, authorize and request every person, firm, company, corporation, governmental agency, court, association or institution having control of any documents, records, and other information pertaining to me to furnish to the Tennessee Board of Law Examiners any such information, including documents, records, or any other pertinent data, and to permit the Tennessee Board of Law Examiners or any of their agents or representatives to inspect and make copies of such documents, records and other information. I hereby release, discharge and exonerate the Tennessee Board of Law Examiners, its agents and representatives, and any persons so furnishing information from any and all liability of every kind and nature arising out to the furnishing or inspection of such documents, records, and other information or the investigation made by the Tennessee Board of Law Examiners or its investigating agencies.

Signature of Applicant

State of _____)
County of _____)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, _____.

(Notary seal)

Notary Public
My Commission Expires: _____.

To be completed by the Applicant:	
Name of Applicant _____	SS# _____

LAW DEGREE VERIFICATION FORM

Tennessee Board of Law Examiners | 511 Union Street, Suite 525 | Nashville, Tennessee 37219

I, _____, hereby certify that I am the _____ of _____
(name of law school official) (title)
(law school); that _____ entered the law school of said college
(name of applicant)
on _____; and that Applicant
(date)

- has completed all requirements for graduation. The date of the graduation is/was: _____ (date).
- is on course to complete all requirements for graduation and will have the number of credit hours required for graduation prior to the date of the bar examination. **If this box is selected, the school must submit the Late Degree Confirmation Form (See Page 4) as soon as possible upon completion of the coursework, certifying that the Applicant successfully completed the requirements for graduation and the date the degree was or will be conferred. The form must be submitted on or before the Friday immediately preceding the exam.**
- will not complete all requirements for graduation or have the number of credit hours required for graduation prior to the date of the bar examination.
- withdrew or otherwise left this law school prior to graduation (please explain): _____.

Said Law School is: (check one)

- _____ (a) Accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA).
 _____ (b) Approved by the Tennessee Board of Law Examiners although not accredited by the ABA.
 _____ (c) Approved/Accredited by the state in which the school is located although not accredited by the ABA (See page 5.)

I further certify that there [] are [] are not matters known to me or contained in the graduate's record which may deprecate the graduate's good moral character. If there are matters known or contained in the file, I have appended documents fully explanatory of those matters, and have marked the appropriate items below.

Do the records in your office reflect that the applicant has ever been:	YES	NO
1. arrested?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. accused of a violation of trust?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. dropped from any educational institution?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. suspended from any educational institution?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. expelled from any educational institution?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. asked to resign from any educational institution?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. otherwise disciplined by any educational institution?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. a party to legal proceedings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. a party to proceedings before an administrative agency?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. found to have used a behavioral health issue as an excuse for behavior*?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. denied admission to the Bar of any other state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. delinquent in any financial obligations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The information furnished above is given with the understanding that it will be revealed to no one not interested in the applicant's admission to the Tennessee bar, and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(Date) _____
(Signature of law school official)

(School Seal)

* Used alcohol or drug use or other behavioral health issue as an excuse for behavior; for example: excessive absences or tardiness, conflict with fellow student, teacher, co-worker, spouse, family member, etc. or similar was caused by depression, anxiety, drug use, etc.

To be completed by the Applicant:

Name of Applicant _____

SS# _____

DEAN CERTIFICATION OF CHARACTER AND FITNESS

To the Law School Dean or Designated Official:

Please provide the following information to assist us in evaluating the applicant's character and fitness for admission to the Tennessee bar. Your answers should be based on the school's records, as well as the personal knowledge of the applicant.

- | | YES | NO |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Did your law school ever determine, within its discipline system that there was "probable cause" to believe that the applicant had violated the policies or honor code of the law school or the campus code of conduct? If so, please attach a description of the matter and its disposition (including sanctions, if any). | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Did the applicant fail to disclose or provide late disclosures of any arrest, discipline, or other infraction that was required to be disclosed on the law school application or disclosed at the time of such event? If so, please attach such disclosures, law school application and any response from the school regarding the disclosures. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. While engaging in law school activities including, without limitation, clinical courses and student bar association activities, did the applicant breach any professional or fiduciary obligation or violate any law or ordinance? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Has your law school determined that the applicant filed false charges against fellow students, professors, or other members of the law school community? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Is the applicant in default on any financial obligations to the law school or on student loan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Has the administration of the law school received any complaints—regardless of disposition—alleging dishonesty or breach of an obligation or duty on the part of the applicant? If so, please attach a description of these complaints and their disposition. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Has the applicant exhibited conduct that suggests the applicant lacks the mental and/or emotional stability necessary to practice law, or that the applicant abuses or is addicted to alcohol or drugs? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Is there any additional information that you wish to provide or do you wish to give the names and addresses of others with pertinent information? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

If you answered "Yes" to any question above, please attach to this form an explanation of your answer.

Based on the above, do you recommend the applicant's admission to the practice of law? Yes No* With Reservations*

I certify that a review of the applicant's file maintained by this law school has been conducted and that the information provided above is true and correct.

Signature

Date

Title

(School Seal required)

*If No or With Reservations, please attach an explanation.

To be completed by the Applicant:

Name of Applicant _____

SS# _____

LAW DEGREE VERIFICATION
LATE CONFIRMATION OF DEGREE FORM

Tennessee Board of Law Examiners | 511 Union Street, Suite 525 | Nashville, Tennessee 37219

I, _____, hereby certify that I am the _____ of
(name of law school official) (title)

_____ ; that _____ entered the law school of
(name of law school) (name of applicant)

said college on _____ ; and that Applicant completed all requirements for graduation on
(date)

_____. The date of the graduation is/was: _____.
(completion date) (Graduation date)

(Date)

(School Seal)

(Signature of law school official)

(Typed Name of School Official)

Return this completed form directly to the TN Board of Law Examiners on or before the Friday immediately preceding the bar exam for which Applicant has applied. Failure to provide this information will result in denial of eligibility to sit for the examination.

To be completed by the Applicant:

Name of Applicant _____

SS# _____

NON-ABA ACCREDITED LAW SCHOOL DISCLOSURES

Tennessee Board of Law Examiners | 511 Union Street, Suite 525 | Nashville, Tennessee 37219-1914

I, _____, hereby certify that I am the _____ of

(name of law school official)

(title)

_____;
(name of law school); and that said Law School (check all that apply):

- _____ (a) Is accredited by the State Licensing Board in which the law school is located and its graduates are permitted to take the bar examination in the state in which the school is located.
- _____ (b) Requires the equivalent of a three-year course of study that is the substantial equivalent of the legal education required of ABA or TN-approved law schools.
- _____ (c) Issues a Juris Doctorate (J.D.) degree.
- _____ (d) Does not issue the J.D. degree based in whole or in part on study by correspondence or other than in-person attendance.

The information furnished above is given with the understanding that it will be revealed to no one not interested in the applicant's admission to the Tennessee bar, and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(Date)

(School Seal)

(Signature of law school official)

(Typed Name of School Official)