



Supreme Court

STATE OF ARIZONA

FROM THE CHAMBERS OF
ROBERT BRUTINEL
CHIEF JUSTICE

1501 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007-3231
(602) 452-3531
FAX (602) 452-3917
RBrutinel@courts.az.gov

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Dear 2020 Law Graduates:

The Arizona Supreme Court appreciates that you are understandably anxious about whether the upcoming July bar exam will take place. Thus, I am writing to inform you of the status of the exam and the efforts being made by the Court in this unprecedented time.

Although some states have already postponed the July exam, we are currently planning to proceed with it. Of course, whether the exam will occur is not entirely in our hands. First, cases of the virus must diminish sufficiently by July that our state and local health authorities deem it safe for examinees to sit for the exam in a large gathering. Rest assured, if that occurs, we will take all precautions to provide a safe examination space, including requiring examinees to sit at least six feet from each other. Second, enough states must offer the exam in July to prompt the National Conference of Bar Examiners (“NCBE”) to supply the test materials and grade the exams. The NCBE will not do so unless a sufficient number of examinees nationwide take the test. We are in close contact with NCBE about this issue.

If it becomes necessary to postpone the July exam, we anticipate rescheduling in September or October of 2020. If it is not safe to give the test then, the exam will be cancelled. If the July exam is postponed or cancelled, applicants can choose to either receive a refund or apply the application fees to the next exam.

Finally, we recognize that any delay in licensing could impact employment opportunities. For that reason, the Court has promulgated, on an emergency basis, amendments to Arizona Supreme Court Rule 39(c). Rule 39(c) will permit law graduates to practice law, with limitations, under the supervision of an attorney and upon certification by this Court. The amendments were proposed in a pending rule petition the Court was scheduled to consider in August with an anticipated effective date of January 2021. Due to the uncertainty caused by the health crisis, the Court voted to approve the amended rule effective May 1, 2020. The link to the new rule is [here](#).

On behalf of the Court, I congratulate you on your upcoming graduation and wish you well in your careers. If our plans change regarding the July bar exam, we will inform you immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Brutinel".

Robert Brutinel