

From: Alan Morrison
To: RulesCommittee Secretary
Cc: Thomas Alvord
Subject: Proposal for Unified District Court Bar Admission
Date: Thursday, December 21, 2023 11:50:27 AM

On February 23, 2023, I submitted the above proposal to the Standing Committee. Please connect the comment below to that proposal and provide it to the Subcommittee that is considering the proposal.

Alan B. Morrison
Thomas Alvord

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We have reviewed the December 8, 2023, report from the Joint Subcommittee on Federal Attorney Admission which discusses the proposal that we submitted on February 23, 2023. Our primary goal in making this proposal was to eliminate the many barriers that prevented lawyers who are admitted to practice in one district court from practicing in other districts. It was our view that centralizing admission in the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts would be the easiest way to accomplish that goal, but we are by no means wedded to that alternative.

In particular, we have no interest in removing the authority from individual districts to discipline attorneys, and our suggestion to centralize discipline was based on our view about centralizing admission.

As for the issues of costs of implementation and loss of revenue, we also recognize that the AO has much better access to the data than we do. In that connection, we note that different districts have different rules on how often attorneys must renew their licenses and how much the court charges for renewal. The lack of uniformity might be another issue the Subcommittee might consider if it is not inclined to support a centralized system of admission.

Thank you for considering these comments, and we are available to assist the Subcommittee in its work.

Alan B. Morrison
Thomas Alvord