



Am I eligible to return to Active status from Inactive without retaking the bar exam?

There are limits on how long a member can remain on Inactive status without re-taking the Bar exam to return to Active status. The length of time that you can be Inactive without re-taking the Bar exam depends on when you changed to Inactive status:

- **Before September 1, 2003**: If you are Inactive more than three years, you must take and pass the Washington State Bar examination in order to return to Active status, unless you establish active legal experience for three of the five years immediately preceding your application to Active status.
- **On or after September 1, 2003**: You may be on Inactive status only for **five years or less of the preceding 10 years**, and you must report CLE credits for all years of all prior full reporting periods to return to Active status. If you are on Inactive status for more than five years of the preceding 10 years, you must take and pass the Washington State bar examination in order to return to Active status.

Do I need to report CLE credits to return to Active status from Inactive?

Yes, however there are different requirements depending on when you changed your status to Inactive:

- **Before September 1, 2003**: If your status was changed from Active or Emeritus to Inactive before September 1, 2003, then you are not required to report CLE credits for the years in which you are Inactive. You will, however, need to be current on all MCLE requirements and report credits for the years in which you were previously Active, if not already reported.
- **On or after September 1, 2003**: If your status was changed from Active or Emeritus to Inactive on or after September 1, 2003, you will be required to report credits for all Active and Inactive years for all prior full reporting periods.

How do I change back to Active status?

For Inactive, Judicial or Emeritus members to return to Active status, you must be current on MCLE requirements, annual licensing fees, and all conditions set forth in the WSBA Bylaws and the Admission to Practice Rules (APR). In order to determine your eligibility and requirements to return to Active status, you must submit a Request for Application to Active Status form with the required non-refundable \$100 status change investigation fee. Following receipt and processing of the required fee and request form, a status change application packet will be sent to you. This packet will contain your specific and individual requirements to be met to change your status to Active, including all necessary forms.

Because the requirements for each particular status change are based on the facts of the individual member's situation and requires investigation of that member's records, the WSBA cannot assess or discuss your specific requirements prior to receiving the Status Change to Active Request Form and the investigation fee.

Forms are available on the status change page of the WSBA website http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/licensing/status_changes.htm or by request via e-mail to statuschanges@wsba.org. You may also contact the WSBA Service Center at 206-443-9722 or 800-945-9722.

What is the deadline for filing my application to return to Active status from Inactive?

Under the current bylaws, the application must be filed by the date that you will have been on Inactive status for 5 years of the preceding 10 or the bar exam is required.

Do I need to have completed all the requirements at the time of filing my application?

No. You have six months from the date of filing your application to pay the license fee and report the CLE credits and to meet any other conditions. However, you cannot return to Active status until all requirements are met.

How much are the license fees?

The license fees are dependent upon the year you were admitted to practice law in any jurisdiction. In addition, you must pay the assessment for the Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection. You will be advised of the license fees due in your application packet.

Per the WSBA Bylaws, license fees will not be prorated. However, any inactive license fee already paid for the same year will be applied toward the active license fee.

What if I am suspended and want to return to Active status?

In most cases the requirements for Inactive to Active status changes apply. In addition, you may be required to pay additional reinstatement and/or late fees. You must also cure the reason for your suspension and comply with all terms of the suspension order. See To Active from _____ Suspended on the WSBA Status Change Page: http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/licensing/status_changes.htm.

I was Suspended and Inactive during periods of the last 10 years. How does that affect the "5 of the preceding 10 years" rule?

Under the current bylaws, if you are Suspended for non-payment of license fees and/or Inactive for more than a total of five of the preceding ten years you must take the bar exam to return to Active status. Members suspended for other reasons for more than five years may be required to take the bar exam.

Is there more information that I should know?

Yes, please carefully read Article II of the WSBA Bylaws. The full text of the WSBA Bylaws is available on the WSBA website at <http://www.wsba.org/info/bylaws/default1.htm>.