

WASHINGTON SUPREME COURT ADMISSION AND  
PRACTICE RULES (APR) RULE 9 LICENSED LEGAL INTERNS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ADMISSIONS DEPARTMENT  
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1. **What are the application fees?**

There is a one-time \$50 application fee. The only applicants exempt from the fee are students who are enrolled in full-time clinics through their law school that provides free legal services for low-income clients.

2. **What can I do as a Rule 9 Licensed Legal Intern?**

Review the Scope of Practice for Licensed Legal Interns in Washington Supreme Court APR 9(e) and (f). Generally, if something is not specifically permitted in Washington Supreme Court APR 9, you should assume that it is not allowed.

3. **How does a legal intern who is not Rule 9-licensed differ from a Rule 9 Licensed Legal Intern?**

A law student working in a law office can do all the things that are not the practice of law that a paralegal or investigator can do. The purpose of the Rule 9 license is to provide a limited ability to practice law under the supervision of a lawyer. APR 9 (e) identifies the scope of practice in which a Licensed Legal Intern may practice law. If you have questions regarding what constitutes the practice of law, please refer to Washington Supreme Court General Rule (GR) 24.

4. **How long does my Rule 9 Legal Intern License Last?**

Your license is valid for 30 months or 18 months after graduation from law school or the Washington Supreme Court APR 6 Law Clerk Program. Whichever occurs first; there are no extensions. Passing or failing the bar exam does not affect your license.

5. **How do I change my supervisor, extend my supervision, or add a supervisor?**

You may add one additional supervisor (up to two total) or change supervisors while your license is still valid. Please use the Change of Supervisor form. If your internship or supervision ended earlier than what is stated in your application, the supervisor should submit a Termination of Supervision form. You cannot use your license if you do not have a valid supervisor on file with the WSBA or if your supervision end-date has passed.

6. **On my application I need to list a speeding ticket I received several years ago, but I am unable to find any documentation or information. What do I do?**

You are required to provide details of any violations, even if you are unable to find any documentation. Please be as accurate as possible with the information you provide in your application.

7. **I have had several DUI's within the last five years. Can I still be a Rule 9 Licensed Legal Intern?**

All applications are subject to character and fitness review. We look at each application on a case by case basis. Please refer to the Washington Supreme Court Admission and Practice Rules (APR) 20-24.2, which list the factors to be considered when determining an applicant's character and fitness.

8. **Can I request a Discipline History Certificate on my Rule 9 supervisor?**

No, discipline history certificates contain confidential disciplinary information. We do not provide these certificates to interns or clerks.



9. **When should I expect my application to be approved?**

You should submit your application up to four weeks in advance of the date your supervision begins. Do not submit your application earlier than this date. If you do, your application may be rejected and returned to you. ***\*Please be aware that complex character and fitness matters will take more time, possibly going beyond the four week timeline.\****

10. **Is there a specific deadline to submit my Rule 9 application?**

No, you may submit your Rule 9 application at any time, but not earlier than four weeks before you would like the license to start.

11. **Is there a cost for submitting a change of supervisor form?**

No. There are no additional fees.

12. **I lost my Rule 9 card; can I get a replacement card?** Yes, please contact Katherine Skinner at [rule9@wsba.org](mailto:rule9@wsba.org)

13. **Who do you mail my Rule 9 card to?**

We mail the original license letter and the Rule 9 license card to the supervising lawyer's address on record with the WSBA.

