

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

PR 17-0008

IN RE PETITION OF DAVID M. MURRAY TO
TAKE JULY 2017 BAR EXAM

O R D E R

In April, we granted the petition of David M. Murray to submit a late application to take the Montana Bar Examination administered in July 2017. Although we granted Murray's petition, we also indicated that "Murray must also comply with all other applicable Rules of Admission in sufficient time to ultimately be able to sit for the examination."

Murray has now submitted another petition in which he indicates that, while it is still possible, it is nonetheless "unlikely" that his character and fitness investigation, administered through the National Conference of Bar Examiners, will be completed prior to the July 2017 examination. Consequently, he requests leave to take the bar examination even though he has not completed this requirement.

Rule III(C)(1) of the Rules of Admission provides that applicants "must be certified or conditionally certified by the Commission on Character and Fitness" before sitting for an examination. In granting his petition to submit a later application, we cautioned that Murray would need to comply with "all other applicable Rules of Admission" to sit for the examination. We conclude it would be inappropriate to permit an applicant to sit for an examination prior to satisfying the requirements of the Rules. Therefore,

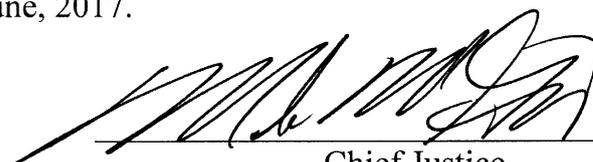
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the petition of David M. Murray to sit for an examination without certification by the Commission on Character and Fitness is DENIED.

The Clerk shall provide copies of this order to the Petitioner and to the Administrator of the Board of Bar Examiners at the State Bar of Montana.

DATED this 27th day of June, 2017.

FILED

JUN 27 2017

*Ed Smith*CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Chief Justice

Jim Rice
Lance Berkman

Scott Podhousky
Michael E. W. Heath

James L. Hooper
John M. Smith

Justices