Supreme Court of Florida

No. SC2026-0024

IN RE: AMENDMENTS TO RULES REGULATING THE FLORIDA BAR – RULE 20-6.1.

October 22, 2026

PER CURIAM.

The Florida Bar filed a petition proposing amendments to Rule Regulating The Florida Bar 20-6.1 (Continuing Education; Generally).[1] Consistent with rule 1-12.1(g), the Bar published formal notice of its intent to file the proposed amendments on its website and in *The Florida Bar News*. The notice directed interested parties to file comments directly with the Court. No comments were received. Having considered the proposal, we adopt the amendments to rule 20-6.1 as proposed.

Specifically, we amend rule 20-6.1 to create a new subdivision (a) (Lecture Credit) to allow Florida Registered Paralegals to receive

1. We have jurisdiction. *See* art. V, § 15, Fla. Const.; *see also* R. Regulating Fla. Bar 1-12.1.

lecture credit for approved seminars for up to 3 credit hours for each 50 minutes of lecture at basic seminars or up to 5 credit hours for each 50 minutes of lecture time at intermediate seminars.

We also adopt a new subdivision (b) (Extensions) that allows the Executive Director or Board of Governors to permit extensions of the time for completion for continuing education requirements in certain circumstances.

Last, we add language to clarify that "[i]f a Florida Registered Paralegal completes more than 30 credit hours during any reporting cycle, the excess credits cannot be carried over to the next reporting cycle."

Accordingly, the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar are amended as set forth in the appendix to this opinion. New language is indicated by underscoring; deletions are indicated by struck-through type. The amendments become effective December 21, 2026, at 12:01 a.m.

It is so ordered.

COURIEL, C.J., and LABARGA, MUÑIZ, GROSSHANS, FRANCIS, and BARRIOS, JJ., concur.
TANENBAUM, J., dissents with an opinion.

THE FILING OF A MOTION FOR REHEARING SHALL NOT ALTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THESE AMENDMENTS.

TANENBAUM, J., dissenting.

Chapter 20 should be removed from the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar. Paralegals, by definition, are not lawyers—so are not admitted to practice law. That means they are beyond this court's regulatory authority. *See* Art. V, § 15, Fla. Const. ("The supreme court shall have exclusive jurisdiction to regulate the admission of persons to the practice of law and *the discipline of persons admitted*." (emphasis supplied)); *see also Fla. Bar v. Hidalgo*, 435 So. 3d 627, 628 (Fla. 2026) (Tanenbaum, J., dissenting) (challenging this court's authority to regulate non-lawyers at all). The bar, an administrative arm of this court charged with implementing the just-highlighted text, should remain focused on accomplishing its core mission. At the same time, it should avoid developing and running a money-raising operation beyond that mission, which is what the Florida Registered Paralegal Program appears to be.

Original Proceeding – Florida Rules Regulating The Florida Bar

Michael Fox Orr, President, Paige Greenlee, President-elect, Joshua E. Doyle, Executive Director, Elizabeth Clark Tarbert, Division

Director, Lawyer Regulation, and Kelly N. Smith, Senior Attorney, The Florida Bar, Tallahassee, Florida,

for Petitioner

APPENDIX

RULE 20-6.1. GENERALLY

Florida Registered Paralegals must complete a minimum of 30 hours of continuing education every 3 years, 5 hours of which must be in legal ethics or professionalism and 3 hours of which must be in technology. Acceptable courses include those approved for credit by The Florida Bar, the National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA), or the National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA). If a Florida Registered Paralegal completes more than 30 credit hours during any reporting cycle, the excess credits cannot be carried over to the next reporting cycle. A Florida Registered Paralegal who resigns or whose status has been revoked but is otherwise eligible for re-registration must complete at least 10 hours of continuing education for each year the Florida Registered Paralegal was previously registered in order to be eligible for re-registration. The new registration will be revoked unless the continuing education hours are completed before the re-registration application and posted on The Florida Bar website within 30 days of the effective date of the re-registration. The Florida Registered Paralegal will be given a new 3-year continuing education cycle on re-registration.

(a) Lecture Credit. A Florida Registered Paralegal may receive continuing education credit after satisfactory performance as a lecturer in an approved course. Credit will be approved for up to 3 credit hours for each 50 minutes of lecture time at basic seminars, or up to 5 credit hours for each 50 minutes of lecture time at intermediate seminars.

(b) Extensions. The Florida Bar Executive Director or Board of Governors may adjust the time for completion for continuing education requirements for good cause shown, which may include, but is not limited to:

(1) national or regional emergency;

(2) flood, fire, hurricane, extended extreme weather, or explosion;

(3) disease, epidemic, pandemic, or quarantine;

(4) war, invasion, or terrorist threats or acts;

(5) extended riots, protest, civil unrest, civil strife, or political unrest; or

(6) local, state, federal, or foreign government recommendation, regulation, mandate, order, law, statute, or advisory.

Requests for extensions from individual members will not be considered.

Comment

[No Change]