

**FILED**

JAN 21 2015

CLERK SUPREME COURT

**In the Supreme Court of Iowa**

**In the Matter of the Basic  
Skills Course Requirement  
for Newly Admitted Attorneys**

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**Order**

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On September 11, 2014, the Iowa Supreme Court invited public comment on whether the Basic Skills Course requirement for persons admitted to practice law in Iowa after 2014 should be retained and whether the course or the requirements for the course should be revised. After considering the written comments, the court has decided to amend Iowa Court Rule 41.12 to eliminate the Basic Skills Course attendance requirement for all persons admitted to practice law in Iowa after 2014.

Twenty comments were received. The court thanks The Iowa State Bar Association, Drake University Law School, and the individual commenters for their contributions to the court's consideration of the issues. Several of the commenters recommended eliminating the Basic Skills Course attendance requirement. Several other commenters recommended retaining the requirement or retaining the requirement with changes. The suggestions for improvement included changing the focus from substantive law to more practice skills, adopting tracked instruction to accommodate individual interests, and allowing additional depth in particular practice areas.

The court remains highly supportive of continuing legal education (CLE) focused on Iowa law and practice for newly admitted lawyers. The court finds, however, that the Basic Skills Course rule hampers the ability of CLE providers to adapt CLE offerings to incorporate interesting and productive suggestions and evolving methods of instruction intended to make the content more valuable for newly admitted lawyers. The court has decided to eliminate the Basic Skills Course requirement for all lawyers admitted after 2014, to allow

CLE providers to more readily adjust program content to best meet the needs of recent lawyer admittees.

The court adopts the amendment to Iowa Court Rule 41.12 as provided with this order. This amendment to court rule 41.12 is effectively immediately.

Dated this 21st day of January, 2015.

**The Supreme Court of Iowa**

By Mark S. Cady  
Mark S. Cady, Chief Justice

## CHAPTER 41

## CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION FOR LAWYERS

CLERK SUPREME COURT

**Rule 41.12. Basic skills course requirement**

**41.12(1)** Every Iowa lawyer admitted to practice by examination after December 31, 2008, but before January 1, 2015, must complete a Basic Skills Course. The course must be completed within one year of the newly admitted lawyer's date of admission to practice in Iowa. The course may be completed after the last day of the bar examination that resulted in admission. If the course is completed after the last day of the bar examination, but the applicant fails the examination, the applicant will remain in compliance with this rule so long as the applicant passes the next examination offered.