



NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

One Elk Street, Albany, New York 12207 • 518.463.3200 • www.nysba.org

VINCENT E. DOYLE III
President, New York State Bar Association

Connors & Vilardo, LLP
1000 Liberty Building
424 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14202
716/852-5533
FAX 716/852-5649
ved@connors-vilardo.com

May 30, 2012

Honorable Jonathan Lippman
Chief Judge of the State of New York
230 Park Avenue, Suite 826
New York, New York 10169

Re: Proposed Part 523 of the Rules of the Court of Appeals

Dear Chief Judge Lippman:

I am pleased to enclose a joint report of the New York State Bar Association and the Military Spouse JD Network proposing a new Part 523 of the Rules of the Court of Appeals to allow the licensing of military spouse attorneys who are admitted to practice and are in good standing in another jurisdiction and who are residing in New York due to their spouses' military orders. As set forth in the report, lawyers married to military spouses face unique challenges in their careers; due to frequent moves required for military service, military spouse attorneys often are unable to meet the practice requirements required for admission on motion. In February 2012, the American Bar Association adopted a resolution, co-sponsored by NYSBA, calling for jurisdictions to adopt rules, regulations and procedures to accommodate the needs of military spouse attorneys; a copy of the report and resolution is appended to the report.

Proposed Part 523 would permit the Appellate Division, in its discretion, to license a military spouse attorney without examination. The attorney would be required to provide proof of the military spouse's orders, certificates of good standing from other jurisdictions in which the attorney is admitted, and evidence of character and fitness as may be required by the Appellate Division. Upon admission, the attorney would be subject to the Rules of Professional Conduct and to professional discipline to the same extent as other members of the bar.

We commend this proposal to you for the Court's consideration, and we would be pleased to provide any additional information you may require or be of other assistance.

Respectfully yours,

Vincent E. Doyle III

c: Hon. A Gail Prudenti
Hon. Luis A. Gonzalez
Hon. William F. Mastro
Hon. Karen K. Peters
Hon. Henry J. Scudder
John W. McConnell, Esq.
Christine Bacon Abromowitz, Esq. ✓