RESOLUTION
IN SUPPORT OF A MILITARY SPOUSES EXCEPTION 
TO THE FIVE-YEAR PRACTICE REQUIREMENT 
OF THE ADMISSION WITHOUT EXAMINATION RULE 1§9(A)(2)(b) 
OF THE SUPREME COURT RULES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BAR 
OF OHIO

WHEREAS, the mission of the Ohio Women’s Bar Association is to monitor issues that 
uniquely affect women and support and advance legislation, policies and practices that affect the 
status of women and opportunities available to women; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Women’s Bar Association strongly supports family-friendly legal 
employment which promotes meaningful alternative work arrangements in both private and 
public practice which exemplify the commitment to work-life balance arrangements, and assures 
that lawyers can take care of their families and still pursue a successful career; and

WHEREAS, the five-year practice requirement of Gov. Bar R. 1§9(A)(2)(b) precludes many 
military spouses from seeking admission to practice law in Ohio, given that military families are 
typically assigned to military installations in any given state for an average of only 2 – 3 years, 
therefore making it impractical and nearly impossible for a licensed attorney to remain in any 
one state long enough to establish the five-year practice requirement of Gov. Bar Rule 
1§9(A)(2)(b); and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Women’s Bar Association studied an alternative regulation for military 
spouses to seek admission without examination to the practice of law in Ohio that would balance 
the need for competent, experienced practitioners in the legal profession as well as a family-
friendly policy for its professionals;

THEREFORE, NOW BE IT RESOLVED,

That, the Ohio Women’s Bar Association supports an exception for military spouses to the five-
year practice requirement of the admission-without-examination Rule 1§9(A)(2)(b) of the 
Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio, as a means for our profession to 
meaningfully contribute and commit to the lawyers in military families who reside in Ohio and 
who can provide professional and competent legal representation in our state.

Dated this 6th day of May, 2009.
MICHELE SHUSTER, OWBA PRESIDENT

This Resolution was passed unanimously by the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Women’s Bar 
Association on May 6, 2009.