

**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

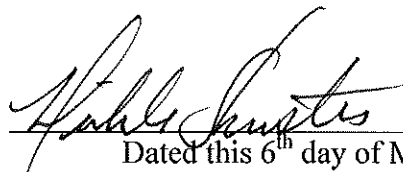
WHEREAS, the Ohio Women's Bar Association strongly supports family-friendly legal employment which promotes meaningful alternative work arrangements in both private and public practice which exemplify the commitment to work-life balance arrangements, and assures that lawyers can take care of their families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