

State Bar Rules

ARTICLE IV ADMINISTRATION

Section 5. Directors, Qualifications and Other Requirements

- A. Qualifications for Serving as Director. The board is the judge of a candidate's qualifications.
1. *All directors.* A director must not be an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a Texas trade association or the spouse of one. Texas trade association is defined in Section 81.028, Government Code.
 2. *Attorney directors.* A director who is an attorney also:
 - a. must be an active member in good standing;
 - b. must never have been disbarred or resigned in lieu of discipline; and
 - c. if ever suspended for professional misconduct, must have been reinstated at least ten years before the term as director begins.
 3. *Elected directors.* An elected director also:
 - a. must have their principal place of practice in the district from which the director is elected;
 - b. must not have their principal place of practice in the same county as the last director from the district—but this requirement does not apply to a director from a Metropolitan County or El Paso County, and the board may disregard the requirement if necessary to rebalance the board membership under section 8;
 - c. must not have served one and one-half years or more of the prior director's term; and
 - d. must not be an elected official paid by the State of Texas.
 4. *Public directors.* A public director also:
 - a. must not have a financial interest in the practice of law, other than as a consumer; and
 - b. must be confirmed by the senate.
 5. *At-large directors.* An at-large director also must not be an elected official paid by the State of Texas.
 6. *Ex officio directors.* An ex officio director also must not be an elected official paid by the State of Texas.
- B. Other Requirements. A director must:
1. take the oath of office by the second regularly scheduled board meeting of the first year of the director's term; and
 2. attend at least half of the regularly scheduled board meetings each calendar year—but a majority of the board may excuse a director's absence.
- C. The board must provide a training program for board members that meets the requirements of Section 81.0201, Government Code. An elected or appointed director cannot participate at a board meeting or vote before completing the training program.