

## **VIRGINIA:**

*In the Supreme Court of Virginia held at the Supreme Court Building in the City of Richmond on Monday, the 24<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2025.*

It is ordered that the Rules heretofore adopted and promulgated by this Court and now in effect are hereby amended, effective January 23, 2026.

Amend Rule 1A:9 as follows:

### **Rule 1A:9. Virginia Legal Aid Counsel.**

#### **Introduction**

Notwithstanding any rule of this Court to the contrary, any person employed in Virginia as a lawyer exclusively for a Virginia Licensed Legal Aid Society, for the purpose of providing free and reduced fee legal services, and who is not and has not been a fully admitted member of the Virginia State Bar, may be issued a Legal Aid Counsel Certificate as provided in this rule. For purposes of this rule, “Legal Aid Employer” is a Virginia Licensed Legal Aid Society. A person holding a Legal Aid Counsel Certificate shall be considered an active member of the Virginia State Bar for all matters undertaken on behalf of the clients of a Legal Aid Employer. Nothing in this rule shall be interpreted to prevent Legal Aid Societies from employing lawyers for practice before courts or tribunals who are permitted by law to so appear and practice by the rules of those courts or tribunals, nor does this rule otherwise determine whether a lawyer must be admitted to the Virginia State Bar. See Rule of Professional Conduct 5.5.

a. A lawyer admitted to the practice of law in a state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia (for purposes of this rule, a “State”), may apply to the Virginia Board of Bar Examiners (“Board”) for a certificate as a Virginia Legal Aid Counsel (“Legal Aid Counsel Certificate”) to practice in Virginia when the lawyer is employed by a Legal Aid Employer in Virginia.

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