

New York Court of Appeals – Skills Competency Requirement Summer Employer Information

As you may know, the New York Court of Appeals has instituted a new requirement for admission to the New York State Bar. The new provision requires applicants for admission in New York to establish that they have acquired the skills and competencies necessary to practice law. All JD students beginning law school after August 1, 2016 are subject to this requirement.

One of the five ways students can satisfy this requirement is to submit a certification from the law school confirming that the applicant successfully completed 15 credit hours of practice-based experiential coursework.

A student may obtain six of the 15 required credits through law school certified non-credit bearing summer employment supervised by an attorney in good standing in any U.S. state or the District of Columbia.

In order for the paid or unpaid summer employment to count toward these credits, the supervising attorney must certify to the law school the following information:

- beginning and ending dates of the employment,
- that the student satisfactorily completed the employment, and
- that the work experience:
 - provided the student with an initial orientation session;
 - implemented a system for assignments that assured that the student was actually engaged in the performance of legal work, including a diversity of tasks, as part of the ongoing practical work of the law office during normal business hours and throughout the required period;
 - provided the student with experience and guidance in the skills and values required for basic competence and ethical participation in the legal profession;
 - gave the student timely oral and written feedback; and
 - engaged the student in reflection on his/her experiences and learning during the employment.

The supervising attorney must also certify the number of hours worked, as those hours translate into credits according to a specific conversion rate identified by the Court (50 hours of qualifying work = one credit toward the requirement).

A certification form has been developed for your use and can be found on our website [here](#).

This description is simply for your information to help you understand the new requirement and why a student may be requesting additional paperwork. Any questions may be directed to Assistant Dean Kevin O'Rear at korear@nd.edu. Thank you.