

Delaware Supreme Court Rule Amends Delaware Supreme Court Rules 2(b), 15(a)(iii), 16(c), 69(b) and Supreme Court Internal Operating Procedure V(1)(a)(i).

By Orders dated June 23, 2014, the Delaware Supreme Court has amended Supreme Court Rules 2(b), 15(a)(iii), 16(c) and 69(b) and Supreme Court Internal Operating Procedure V(1)(a)(i). Copies of the amendments are attached for your review. The rule amendments are also available on the [Court's website](#).

Supreme Court Rule 2(b) has been amended to make the rule consistent with the Court's practice when assigning judges of constitutional courts to sit in the Supreme Court to complete a quorum. The former rule required that a constitutional judge be the most "senior in rank" starting with the presiding judges of the constitutional courts followed by the ranking judges of the constitutional courts if the presiding judges were unavailable or disqualified. The amended rule authorizes the Court to appoint any constitutional judge, regardless of rank, to complete a quorum. This has been the Court's practice for the last several years.

Supreme Court Rule 15(a)(iii) has been amended to add a sentence which encourages all appellants and cross-appellants to file reply briefs. The Court finds reply briefs to be helpful in the Court's deliberations.

Supreme Court Rule 16(c) and Supreme Court Internal Operating Procedure V(1)(a)(i) have been amended to change the at issue date for scheduling a case for oral argument or decision on the briefs from the filing of the answering brief to the filing of the reply brief on appeal or cross appeal. This change emphasizes the importance of reply briefs to the Court because it gives the Court time to consider the reply briefs carefully before argument or deciding a matter on the briefs.

Supreme Court Rule 69(b) has been amended to require that all active, inactive and emeritus members of the Delaware Bar who are admitted before February 1 of each year are required to file an Annual Registration Statement. This rule amendment clarifies the requirement that newly admitted lawyers must file Annual Registration Statements if admitted before February 1 of each year. Previously, the Court's practice was to require lawyers admitted before December 31 of each year to file Annual Registration Statements.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephen D. Taylor, Court Administrator, at steve.taylor@state.de.us or 302-577-8742 or Cathy L. Howard at cathy.howard@state.de.us or 302-739-4155. Thank you

SDT/dlc