

#2018-007

# Steven N. Karels

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**25 April 2018**

Chief Justice Robert J. Lynn  
New Hampshire Supreme Court  
One Charles Doe Drive  
Concord, NH 03301

**Dear Chief Justice Robert J. Lynn:**

I am writing to you to ask that you rethink and reconsider the Rule 36 requirements for application of student internships in New Hampshire. I recently applied and was turned down because the law school I attend, Massachusetts School of Law at Andover, MA (MSLaw), is not an ABA-approved school. I sent a second letter asking, among other things, that a waiver be granted and that request was also denied.

I am not asking for a reconsideration of my case. I will apply, and most likely receive, a Rule 3.03 internship under Massachusetts rules. It is too late for me to attempt any equitable action to require a change of the rule as I will be graduating and taking the Bar examination in early 2020. However, there are other New Hampshire-domiciled students at MSLaw and they most likely will desire to intern in New Hampshire. It is for them that I request the Court revisit and reconsider Rule 36.

I have been living in New Hampshire since 1985. I love the state. I served in Vietnam in the U.S. Army and am a combat veteran. I worked in engineering in the Nashua area and I recently retired in 2016 after 48 years. I had resided in Salem, NH from 1985 until 2017. That year, my wife of 47 years died. I now live in Manchester, NH. After my retirement, I wanted to do something interesting with the rest of my life and I thought studying law would be extremely interesting and challenging. I was not disappointed in my studies at MSLaw. It has been very challenging and difficult for me. But I have successfully completed about two years of studies at law school. My hope is to become a NH prosecutor. I feel I can serve my community best in criminal law.

I have been doing volunteer office work at the Salem, NH police prosecution office under Attorney Jason Grosky. I help prepare subpoenas, organize responses for requests for discovery, and generate letters for past convictions, etc. Attorney Grosky is an MSLaw graduate. My hope was to do a Rule 36 internship under Attorney Grosky but that will not now happen. I will adjust my options accordingly.

I have found MSLaw provides an excellent legal education. I have learned so much. I also observe that there is a larger than usual percentage of my fellow students who are Spanish Speakers and/or People of Color. I am the oldest student currently at MSLaw. I am 71 years old, and I can contribute

a different perspective than most of my other classmates. I understand that minority and older students are the exception at other law schools. This "pool" of talent is needed in our society.

I assume the question comes down to whether MSLaw is providing as high a quality of a legal education as ABA-approved law schools. The only knowledge I have is that the percentages of first and second attempt successes for passing the Massachusetts Bar examination shows, other than Harvard Law School, that MSLaw's statistics are comparable to other regional ABA-approved law schools. I infer that the quality of education is at least comparable to most other ABA-approved law schools. I therefore see no logical reason why the ABA-approved school requirement on Rule 36.

I know that there is a mechanism whereby MSLaw graduates may take the NH Bar examination and, if successful, be admitted to the NH Bar and practice. I also understand that there are many such MSLaw graduates now successfully practicing in New Hampshire. This begs the question as to why the requirement for an ABA-approved school for a law student to train as an intern in the State of New Hampshire? As I mentioned before, I am not asking for myself, but I foresee this question arising again and again for other MSLaw students who reside in New Hampshire and who also love our state as we do.

I would ask for a review and reflection on why Rule 36 is as it is written and, perhaps, consider the unintended impact it is having on otherwise qualified and dedicated law students.

Sincerely,



Steven N. Karels

