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MILITARY SPOUSE JD NETWORK

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FIRST STATE APPROVES MILITARY SPOUSE ATTORNEY ADMISSION

Idaho Recognizes Unique Challenges Facing Military Spouse Lawyers

The Idaho Supreme Court approved Idaho Bar Commission Rule 229, Military Spouse Provisional Admission, providing for the admission of attorneys married to servicemembers. This approval comes after overwhelming support by members of the Idaho State Bar during its annual fall resolution process.

Rule 229 allows qualified attorneys married to servicemembers to apply for admission without examination and without an experience requirement while in the State of Idaho due to military orders. The Military Spouse JD Network ("MSJDN") considers the approval of this Rule as an acknowledgement by the Idaho legal community that although military spouses are in the state only temporarily, they have skills and experience to contribute to the local legal community and should be given the opportunity to do so.

"Working on the rule change process in Idaho has been incredibly rewarding," says Kimberly Espinosa, Director of Idaho for the MSJDN. "By approving this Rule, the Idaho State Bar and the legal community recognize the sacrifices military spouse attorneys make as we move to a new jurisdiction every 2-3 years. This decision sends a clear message that Idaho is a leading state in supporting our men and women in uniform and their families."

"It is great news for military spouses who support their families and country by service in the military and the law. We are proud of [MSJDN's] groundbreaking efforts," said Reed Larsen, President of the Idaho State Bar.

While Rule 229 has been approved by the Idaho Supreme Court, official adoption of the Rule will not occur until the Court issues an order doing so, which is expected to be released within the coming weeks.

The Military Spouse JD Network is dedicated to eliminating barriers to the practice of law and making the legal profession a portable and viable career option for military spouses.

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If you would like more information about the Military Spouse JD Network, contact Mary Reding at milspouse.bar@gmail.com and visit www.MilitarySpouseJDNetwork.org.