

**IN THE SUPREME COURT**

**STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN RE:   STATE BAR OF GEORGIA  
Rules and Regulations for its  
Organization and Government**

**MOTION TO AMEND 2025-11**

**MOTION TO AMEND THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE  
STATE BAR OF GEORGIA**

SUBMITTED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

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COMES NOW the State Bar of Georgia, pursuant to the authorization and direction of its Board of Governors, respectfully moves that the Rules and Regulations of the State Bar of Georgia be amended<sup>1</sup> as follows:

Preface

The Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia met at its regularly scheduled meeting on October 11, 2025. It approved the

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<sup>1</sup> See the order of this Court providing for such amendments dated December 6, 1963 (219 Ga. 873), and amended by subsequent Orders, and published online in the State Bar of Georgia Handbook (<https://www.gabar.org/handbook/>).

proposed rule changes<sup>2</sup> by deleting the struck-through sections and inserting the underlined sections as follows:

1 **Rule 4-203.1 (a). Uniform Service Rule**

2 (a) Lawyers shall inform the Membership Department of the State  
3 Bar of Georgia, in writing, of their Official Address, which shall  
4 include the lawyer's current name, ~~official~~ mailing address, email  
5 address, and telephone number. The Supreme Court of Georgia and  
6 the State Bar of Georgia may rely on the ~~official address~~ Official  
7 Address on file with the Membership Department in all efforts to  
8 contact, communicate with, and perfect service upon a lawyer. The  
9 failure of a lawyer to maintain any component of an Official Address  
10 pursuant to the provisions of this Rule shall not form a separate  
11 basis for discipline against the lawyer. The choice of a lawyer to  
12 provide only a post office box or commercial equivalent address to the  
13 Membership Department of the State Bar of Georgia shall constitute

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<sup>2</sup> Note that this sub-section of Rule 4-203.1 (a) has a proposed amendment pending with the Supreme Court of Georgia in Motion 2023-2. The Board of Governors, aware of that pending change as well as certain concerns expressed in regards to those proposed changes, adopted the below modifications to sub-section (a) of Rule 4-203.1 which include both certain changes that were previously proposed in Motion 2023-2 as well as new additions or deletions. The red-lined text and clean version herein reflect the language that the Board of Governors wishes to see in the final, promulgated version of 4-203.1 (a).

14 an election to waive personal service. Notification of a change of  
15 address given to any department of the State Bar of Georgia other  
16 than the Membership Department shall not satisfy the requirement  
17 herein. Should a member fail to include an email address in their  
18 Official Address on file with the Membership Department of the  
19 State Bar of Georgia, neither the Supreme Court of Georgia nor the  
20 State Bar of Georgia need comply with any requirement pertaining to  
21 emailing set forth herein, and any provision requiring emailing shall  
22 be deemed satisfied as soon as any requirements other than the  
23 requirement for emailing have been completed.

24  
  
If the proposed amendments to the rule are approved, the  
amended rule will read as it appears under Appendix “A.”

SO MOVED, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

Counsel for the State Bar of Georgia

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**APPENDIX “A”**  
**Clean Version of Bar Rule Amendments**

**Rule 4-203.1 (a). Uniform Service Rule**

(a) Lawyers shall inform the Membership Department of the State Bar of Georgia, in writing, of their Official Address, which shall include the lawyer’s current name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number. The Supreme Court of Georgia and the State Bar of Georgia may rely on the Official Address on file with the Membership Department in all efforts to contact, communicate with, and perfect service upon a lawyer. The failure of a lawyer to maintain any component of an Official Address pursuant to the provisions of this Rule shall not form a separate basis for discipline against the lawyer. The choice of a lawyer to provide only a post office box or commercial equivalent address to the Membership Department of the State Bar of Georgia shall constitute an election to waive personal service. Notification of a change of address given to any department of the State Bar of Georgia other than the Membership Department shall not satisfy the requirement herein. Should a member fail to include an email address in their Official Address on file with the Membership Department of the State Bar of

22 Georgia, neither the Supreme Court of Georgia nor the State Bar of  
23 Georgia need comply with any requirement pertaining to emailing  
24 set forth herein, and any provision requiring emailing shall be  
25 deemed satisfied as soon as any requirements other than the  
26 requirement for emailing have been completed.