

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Board of Bar Examiners
Guidelines for Letters of Recommendation

Letters of recommendation are required for your Petition for Admission to the Massachusetts Bar.

For Admission by Examination:

- a. Two letters of recommendation, written by two people who know you well

For Admission by Motion:

- a. Attorneys admitted in other states under S.J.C. Rule 3:01 §6.1: The letters are to be from three members of the bar of the Commonwealth, or from the jurisdiction of your prior admission, or of the bar of the state, district or territory in which you have last resided. . At least one letter must be from a member of the bar of the state, district or territory of the United States where the applicant is admitted.
- b. Attorneys admitted in foreign countries under S.J.C. Rule 3:01 §6.1: From three members of the bar of the foreign jurisdiction and from two members of the bar of the Commonwealth.
- c. Attorneys admitted in Canada, applying under S.J.C. Rule 3:01 §6.2: From three members of the bar of the Commonwealth or of the bar of the province or territory of Canada where the applicant is admitted or last practiced. At least one letter must be from a member of the bar of the province or territory of Canada where the petitioner is admitted.

The recommendation letters **must include** the following:

- The author should write the letters to the members of the Board of Bar Examiners with the below address, **BUT**, the letters must be attached to your Petition of Admission, which is filed with the Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk. Letters of recommendation will not be accepted under separate cover.

Board of Bar Examiners
Edward Brooke Courthouse
24 New Chardon St., 1st Floor
Boston, MA 02114

- The nature and extent of the author's acquaintance with you.
- The author's personal knowledge as to the length and continuity of your practice of law (if applying by Motion) and any outside work.
- Specific facts, favorable or unfavorable, about the petitioner, as they should be made known to the Board of Bar Examiners who are to decide on his or her fitness to be a member of the profession.
- The author's belief as to your moral character and fitness to be admitted to the bar of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Please note that family members or relatives may **not** write letters of recommendation.

Letters of recommendation should **not** be identical or similar in content, nor should they be written in memo form.