

## Common Terms Related to Attorney Registration

Below are terms often used within attorney registration. For additional questions regarding these terms, please call 717-231-3380.

### **Active**

Active attorneys are members of the bar of this Commonwealth and may practice law in Pennsylvania, assuming all other requirements are met. The [Rules of Professional Conduct](#) set out the minimum ethical standards for the practice of law and constitute a set of rules which all lawyers must follow.

### **Inactive**

Inactive attorneys are members of the bar of this Commonwealth, but may not practice law in Pennsylvania or hold themselves out as authorized to practice law in Pennsylvania.

### **Retired**

Retired attorneys are members of the bar of this Commonwealth, but may not practice law in Pennsylvania or hold themselves out as authorized to practice law in Pennsylvania. If an attorney is retired, he or she is not permitted to engage in any activity which constitutes practice as a Pennsylvania lawyer. He or she may not advise clients as to Pennsylvania law, contact third parties or courts in a representative capacity, file any document with a court on behalf of another, or work in a position which requires the person to be a lawyer in good standing.

### **In-House Corporate Counsel, Limited Admission**

Limited In-House Corporate Counsel or In-House Corporate Counsel attorneys are not members of the bar of this Commonwealth, but are employed by and perform legal services in Pennsylvania for a corporation, company, partnership, association or other non-governmental business entity. This is a limited admission and is subject to expiration. See License Expired.

### **Foreign Legal Consultant**

Foreign Legal Consultants are not members of the bar of this Commonwealth, but may render legal services in this Commonwealth with respect to the law of the foreign country where the foreign legal consultant is admitted to practice law. This is a limited admission and is subject to expiration. See License Expired.

### **Temporary Admission, Attorney Participants in Defender or Legal Services Programs**

These attorneys are not members of the bar of this Commonwealth, but are qualified to practice in the courts of another state and are employed by or associated with an organized legal services program in this Commonwealth providing legal assistance to indigents in civil matters or a public defender's office or defender association in this Commonwealth providing legal assistance to indigents in criminal matters. This is a limited admission and is subject to expiration.

### **Military Attorney, Limited Admission**

These attorneys are not members of the bar of this Commonwealth, but have a limited admission to practice law before the courts of this Commonwealth as:

(1) a full-time active duty military officer, serving in the office of the Staff Judge Advocate of the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, or Coast Guard, or a Naval Legal Service Office, located in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or

(2) a member of a reserve or national guard legal unit, even if not on full-time active duty, while associated with and performing services under the aegis of an established Expanded Legal Assistance Program (ELAP) located in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This is a limited admission and is subject to expiration. See License Expired.

### **Administrative Suspension**

Status of an attorney, after Court order, who has failed to pay the annual fee, failed to satisfy their continuing legal education requirements or failed to pay any expenses taxed in a disciplinary proceeding.

### **License Expired**

Status of an attorney, after Court order, who has failed to comply with the requirements of limited admission or the limited admission has expired.

### **Bar Resignation**

Status of an attorney, after Court order, who was not the subject of any investigation into allegations of misconduct, who submitted a written resignation from the office of attorney at law and voluntarily ceased to be a member of the bar of this Commonwealth.

### **Disability**

Status of an attorney, after Court order, who has been declared incapacitated or involuntarily committed on the grounds of incapacity or severe mental disability.

### **Admission Revoked**

A status whereby a penalty is imposed upon attorneys who deliberately make false statements or withhold material information in the process of application for admission to the bar.

### **Disbarment**

Most severe type of discipline given to an attorney. The attorney may not practice law for a minimum of 5 years if disbarred. After 5 years, he or she may apply for reinstatement, but the Board does not guarantee the right to practice again. Also, see Keller Threshold term listed below.

### **Suspension**

A type of discipline given by the Supreme Court to an attorney. The attorney may not practice law for a set period of time not to exceed five years. If a suspension is for more than one year, the attorney is required to petition for reinstatement under [Rule 218 of the PA Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement](#).

### **Judge**

A status whereby Justices or judges serve in Pennsylvania and other State courts of record, or who are serving an appointment for life on any federal court.

*For additional terms related to the disciplinary system, visit the [Media page](#) of the Web site.*