

SUPREME COURT OF OKLAHOMA

In the Matter of the Reinstatement of Jones

2022 OK 12 · No. SCBD-7126 · Decided February 1, 2022

SUMMARY

The Oklahoma Supreme Court grants Sidney Wade Jones's petition for reinstatement to the Oklahoma Bar Association and the roll of attorneys. Jones had voluntarily resigned in 2011, had not practiced law or faced discipline, and demonstrated good moral character, competency, and compliance with reinstatement requirements. Reinstatement was conditioned on payment of \$61.69 in costs.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Oklahoma
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Edmondson, J.
JURISDICTION	Oklahoma
DECIDED	February 1, 2022
DOCKET	SCBD-7126
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Original proceeding for reinstatement to the Oklahoma Bar Association and the roll of attorneys following the petitioner's voluntary resignation from the roll in 2011.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The Supreme Court of Oklahoma exercises original and exclusive jurisdiction over reinstatement matters and weighs the Professional Responsibility Tribunal's recommendation together with the evidence in the record.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	published
PARTIES	Sidney Wade Jones v. Oklahoma Bar Association

TOPICS

- appellate procedure
- appellate jurisdiction
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- legal ethics
- attorney discipline
- attorney reinstatement

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Jones established by clear and convincing evidence that he satisfied the requirements for reinstatement after voluntarily resigning from the Oklahoma Bar Association.
2. Whether Jones demonstrated the good moral character, absence of unauthorized practice, and legal competency required for reinstatement.
3. Whether reinstatement should be conditioned on payment of the costs requested by the Oklahoma Bar Association.

HOLDINGS

1. The Supreme Court of Oklahoma has original and exclusive jurisdiction over matters involving reinstatement to the Oklahoma Bar Association.
2. An attorney who voluntarily resigned from Oklahoma Bar Association membership may be reinstated upon strict compliance with the requirements of Rule 11 of the Rules Governing Disciplinary Proceedings and proof by clear and convincing evidence of the required qualifications.
3. Jones established by clear and convincing evidence that he possessed the competency and learning in the law required for reinstatement.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“This court exercises original and exclusive jurisdiction in all matters of reinstatement.” (¶ 6)

“The burden of proof is on Petitioner to establish by clear and convincing evidence stronger proof of qualifications than one seeking admission for the first time.” (¶ 7)

“We reinstate Sidney Wade Jones to the Oklahoma Bar Association upon showing that he has paid costs in the amount of \$61.69 which constitutes the full amount requested by the OBA in its Application to Assess Costs.” (¶ 10)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Sidney Wade Jones was admitted to the Oklahoma Bar Association in 1997 and voluntarily resigned from the roll of attorneys in 2011 after pursuing a career in sales. He was not under investigation or discipline when he resigned and did not practice law after his resignation. After more than ten years away from practice, Jones sought reinstatement, presented character and competency evidence, completed continuing legal education, and paid an outstanding balance for prior bar dues.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Jones petitioned for reinstatement on September 17, 2021. The Oklahoma Bar Association investigated and recommended reinstatement, and a trial panel of the Professional Responsibility Tribunal held a hearing on December 7, 2021. The tribunal unanimously found that Jones satisfied the reinstatement requirements and recommended reinstatement; the Oklahoma Supreme Court considered the matter on the record and granted reinstatement subject to payment of costs.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- In re Reinstatement of Hirst, 2009 OK 63, ¶ 4, 222 P.3d 11, 12

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