

## SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA

### In re Committee on Bar Admissions CFN-3463

150 So. 3d 300 (La. 2014) · No. CFN-3463 · Decided October 31, 2014

#### SUMMARY

The Louisiana Supreme Court denied rehearing of a decision denying an applicant admission to the Louisiana bar. The court held that the applicant had not shown good moral character and fitness to practice law, citing a pattern of violent criminal conduct, lack of candor in law school applications and bar admission proceedings, and no relevant change in circumstances since the prior denial.

#### CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | Supreme Court of Louisiana                                                                                                        |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Per Curiam; Grant; Hughes; Knoll; Weimer                                                                                          |
| JURISDICTION          | Louisiana                                                                                                                         |
| DECIDED               | October 31, 2014                                                                                                                  |
| DOCKET                | CFN-3463                                                                                                                          |
| DISPOSITION           | other                                                                                                                             |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | Petitioner sought rehearing of the Louisiana Supreme Court's denial of his second application for admission to the Louisiana bar. |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | Published precedential opinion                                                                                                    |
| PARTIES               | Petitioner v. Committee on Bar Admissions                                                                                         |

#### TOPICS

appellate procedure

preservation of error

#### PRACTICE AREAS

bar admission

professional responsibility

#### QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether petitioner demonstrated a relevant change in facts concerning his character and fitness sufficient to permit consideration of a second application for admission to the bar.
- Whether petitioner's asserted improvement in anger-management issues and reliance on a recent settlement agreement warranted rehearing of the denial of his second application.

## HOLDINGS

1. A subsequent application for admission to the bar will not be considered absent a showing of facts relating to the applicant's character and fitness to practice law that have changed since the prior denial.
2. Petitioner failed to meet his burden of proving good moral character and fitness to practice law because his pattern of violent conduct and lack of candor demonstrated a fundamental lack of moral fitness.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

*“Petitioner’s conduct reveals a fundamental lack of moral fitness necessary for admission to the bar.”* (150 So. 3d at 301)

*“Accordingly, we decline to revisit our judgment of June 30, 2014 denying petitioner’s second application for admission.”* (150 So. 3d at 301)

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Petitioner had a history of arrests and criminal conduct, including conduct involving violence, and had failed to disclose arrests and the seriousness of related charges on law-school applications. After passing the bar examination, he underwent a character-and-fitness proceeding, but the court determined that he had not proved good moral character and fitness to practice law. In his second application, petitioner asserted that his anger-management issues had improved and relied on a settlement agreement with the United States Department of Justice, but the court found no relevant change in circumstances concerning his character and fitness since the prior denial.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Committee on Bar Admissions initially denied petitioner's application based on multiple criminal arrests and charges. The court later permitted petitioner to sit for the bar examination, but after he passed and a character-and-fitness hearing was conducted, the court denied admission in 2011 because he failed to prove good moral character and fitness and had demonstrated a lack of candor. Petitioner filed a second application in 2014, which the court denied on June 30, 2014. The court denied rehearing after considering petitioner's supplemental memorandum.

## DISPOSITION

other

## CASES CITED

- In re Jordan, 00-3006 (La. 12/15/00), 775 So. 2d 1065