

SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA

In re Ranshi

209 So. 3d 748 (La. 2016) · Decided January 15, 2016

SUMMARY

The Louisiana Supreme Court grants Barry S. Ranshi's application for readmission to the practice of law after his prior conditional admission was revoked for violating an alcohol-monitoring agreement. Readmission is conditioned on a new five-year Lawyers Assistance Program agreement, continued monitoring, reporting obligations, and compliance with program and disciplinary-authority requirements.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Louisiana
JURISDICTION	Louisiana
DECIDED	January 15, 2016
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner's application for readmission to the practice of law was referred to the disciplinary board's adjudicative committee chair, who recommended granting readmission. The Supreme Court of Louisiana reviewed the recommendation and the record.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Review of the disciplinary record and the disciplinary board adjudicative committee chair's recommendation.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published Louisiana Supreme Court opinion

TOPICS

agency adjudication

administrative law

PRACTICE AREAS

legal ethics

attorney discipline

bar admission and readmission

lawyers assistance programs

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Ranshi satisfied the criteria for readmission to the practice of law under Supreme Court Rule XIX, § 24(E).

2. Whether readmission should be conditioned on continued participation in and monitoring under a new five-year Lawyers Assistance Program agreement.

HOLDINGS

1. Ranshi satisfied the applicable readmission criteria and should be readmitted to the practice of law in Louisiana.
2. Readmission must be conditional on execution and compliance with a new five-year LAP agreement, reporting to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, cooperation with LAP and ODC, and compliance with their requirements.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Accordingly, we will readmit petitioner to the practice of law, subject to the conditions set forth above.” (209 So. 3d at 749)

“Upon review of the recommendation of the disciplinary board’s adjudicative committee chair, and considering the record, it is ordered that Barry S. Ranshi, Louisiana Bar Roll number 33493, be immediately readmitted to the practice of law in Louisiana, subject to the conditions set forth in this opinion.” (209 So. 3d at 750)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Ranshi disclosed two DWI arrests when applying to take the Louisiana bar examination, and a Lawyers Assistance Program evaluation recommended intensive outpatient treatment and continued monitoring because of his alcohol-abuse history. He was conditionally admitted in 2011, but the Supreme Court revoked that admission in 2014 after he tested positive for alcohol while under LAP monitoring. Before seeking readmission, he completed inpatient treatment, continued aftercare and follow-up care, was considered in sustained full remission and safe to practice, and entered a new five-year LAP agreement with which he remained compliant.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Barry S. Ranshi’s conditional admission to the Louisiana bar had been revoked after he violated his Lawyers Assistance Program agreement by testing positive for alcohol. He later applied for readmission, asserting compliance with the readmission criteria in Supreme Court Rule XIX, § 24(E). The Office of Disciplinary Counsel concurred, and the disciplinary board’s adjudicative committee chair recommended readmission. The Supreme Court adopted that recommendation and readmitted Ranshi subject to specified conditions.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- In re Ranshi, 139 So. 3d 989 (La. 2014)

