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VIA EMAIL comments.mailbox@njcourts.gov
Glenn A. Grant, Administrative Director of the Courts, Comments
U.S. Justice Complex
P.O. Box 037
Trenton, NJ 08625-0037

Re: Comments on the Report of the Special Committee on Duration of Disbarment for Knowing Misappropriation (Wade Committee)

Dear Judge Grant:

The undersigned is the President of the Bergen County Bar Association.

Your notice to the Bar dated June 29, 2023, and the Wade Committee report have been reviewed and discussed at length by the Trustees of the Bergen County Bar Association. I am writing to advise you that the Bergen County Bar Association favors the recommendation of the majority of the Committee regarding a path back from disbarment.

Our Trustees agree with the Committee that, as illustrated by the Wade case, there are circumstances in which permanent disbarment is inappropriate – even for conduct as serious as a Wilson offense. The Trustees believe that the defined path back from disbarment represents a compromise that will allow deserving former members of the Bar to be reinstated while adequately protecting the public and preserving respect for the Bench and Bar. The Trustees are further confident that the Supreme Court is well-equipped to impose appropriate conditions based on the circumstances of each individual applicant for readmission to the Bar such that these goals can be safeguarded. Our Trustees also noted that the five-year period of suspension would severely impact an attorney's career and will certainly serve both as a blunt warning against misuse of Trust funds and as a significant deterrent to such conduct.

Finally, on behalf of the trustees and members of our Bar Association, I would like to thank the members of the Committee for their fine work in formulating a wise and practical process for readmission. We enthusiastically support its adoption by the Court.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ William I. Strasser

William I. Strasser, Esq.
President, Bergen County Bar Association