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Glenn A. Grant, Administrative Director of the Courts
Hughes Justice Complex
P.O. Box 037
Trenton, NJ 08625-0037

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

Dear Judge Grant:

I have had the privilege to practice law in New Jersey since 1969.

During that time, I had broad experience in government and in the private sector. I have observed the ethical behavior of other attorneys engaged in public affairs and in business including some who were disbarred.

I had an opportunity to review the Wade Committee's report. The Court's discussion in Matter of Wade, 250 N.J. 581 (2022) signaled that it was willing to consider the readmission of disbarred attorneys. I was not surprised that the Committee's majority recommended a path for readmission.

But I join with Judge Gallipoli and Mr. Trimmer in dissent. For me the issue is quite simple: should a lawyer who stole money from a client be afforded a second chance to stealⁱ money from other clients. My view is that In re Wilson, 81 N.J.451 (1979) was correctly decided and a lawyer who knowingly misappropriates client funds should be permanently disbarred.

My question to those who hold a contrary view is: would you hire a lawyer who stole money "to cover personal and business expenses"; "because she needed money and had no one else to turn to for a loan"; and/or "had no idea my [her] actions were wrong or that they would spark disciplinary proceedings". Matter of Wade at 584, 586 and 588. If the answer is in the negative why would you recommend that consideration be given to the readmission of such an attorney, or any attorney who stole client funds, particularly where the clients were among society's most vulnerable.

I believe in second chances. But I don't believe that it is in the public interest to enable a lawyer who stole client funds to be afforded the opportunity to do it again.

I am not suggesting that every lawyer who steals money from a client needs to be criminally prosecuted and incarcerated. In fact, I would prefer that most disbarred attorneys find gainful employment in a position not involving the public trust rather than serving a year or more in prison. If the practice of law is a privilege and imbued with the public trust a lawyer who steals client funds should be permanently disbarred.

I appreciate the opportunity to express my views concerning this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lewis Goldshore".

LEWIS GOLDSHORE

ⁱ I perceive no distinction between stealing and borrowing. An attorney who "borrows" client funds without permission has stolen those funds whether they intended to repay them or not.