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Glenn A. Grant, Administrative Director of the Courts  
Commission on the Report of the Special Committee on the Duration of Disbarment for  
Knowing Misappropriation  
(Wade Commission)  
Huges Justice Complex  
P.O. Box 037  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am grateful the Commission on the Report of the Special Committee on the Duration of Disbarment for Knowing Misappropriation (Commission) sees fit to grant former members of the New Jersey Bar, such as me, an opportunity to make an application to return to the practice of law. So, the issue is no longer whether it is possible to return to the practice of law, but the duration of disbarment.

I wanted to prepare a treatise about what other States require of attorneys. Or, how in neighboring States, such as New York, members of the bar are suspended for Wilson type violations instead. Honestly, it all just became too much.

The truth is it has been a year since I was disbarred, and things have been challenging. Fortunately, I managed to shut down my practice and obtain gainful employment without too much upset. My family has been supportive throughout the process.

It is interesting to see how much the practice of law has changed within this past year.

As it stands, this Commission has been charged with assessing the duration of disbarment for knowing misappropriation. Although I am not a standing member of the Commission, I recommend the Commission consider degrees and/or grades of discipline for members of the bar. I recommend the Commission consider whether the objective of the discipline imposed is to be rehabilitative or penal in nature.

Each matter should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. All offenders should not be subject to the same discipline. For instance, members of the bar could be disbarred from: one (1) to three (3) years for lesser violations; three (3) to five (5) years for more serious violations; or, five (5)

to seven (7) years for the most serious violations. Moreover, the Court could decide whether former members of the bar who commit seriously egregious violations should remain disbarred. The Supreme Court of New Jersey should be entrusted with the authority to review each matter liberally.

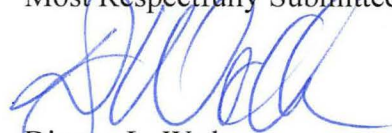
Former members of the bar should be directed to take supplemental New Jersey Continuing Legal Education Classes on the applicable subject matter in addition to the current requirement and be assigned a mentor for a period of at least one (1) to seven (7) years. Upon fulfillment of all requirements, the attorney should be permitted to return to the practice of law unfettered.

This Committee and the Supreme Court of New Jersey have an opportunity to create a pathway that is disciplinary, not penal. Attorneys are humans, we make mistakes.

It is my hope that the Committee takes the aforementioned into consideration in making its determination.

I appreciate the Commission's time and attention to this matter.

Most Respectfully Submitted,



Dionne L. Wade