

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN THE MATTER OF THE AMENDMENT OF)
THE SUPREME COURT RULES, AND THE)
CREATION OF COMMITTEES RELATING)
TO THE ADMISSION OF APPLICANTS)
TO PRACTICE LAW.)

ADKT 171

FILED

APR 05 1996

JANETTE M. BLOOM
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY *J. Richards*
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

ORDER RE: COMMITTEE ON MORAL CHARACTER AND FITNESS

WHEREAS, on September 29, 1993, this court entered an order establishing the Committee on Moral Character and Fitness, which Committee was given all those powers and duties delegated under the Nevada Supreme Court Rules to the Board of Governors and the Board of Bar Examiners relating to the conduct of investigations and hearings, and the submission of reports and recommendations to this court respecting the ethical, moral, and psychological fitness and character of applicants for admission to practice law in this state; and

WHEREAS, this court ordered that the Committee be composed of seven members who are active members of the State Bar of Nevada, and that a majority of the Committee shall constitute a quorum; and

WHEREAS, on December 8, 1995, the Board of Bar Examiners filed a motion requesting this court to increase the number of attorneys appointed to serve on the Committee from seven to nine, and to allow for the appointment of four lay members who are professionals with expertise in fields that are germane to the determination of the character and fitness issues confronted by the Committee; and

WHEREAS, this court has reviewed and considered the Board of Bar Examiner's proposed changes to the composition and functioning of this Committee, and it appears to this court that the amendment of its order of September 29, 1993, is warranted with respect to the provisions regarding the composition of the

Committee on Moral Character and Fitness, and the number of members necessary to constitute a quorum; accordingly,


IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Committee on Moral Character and Fitness shall be composed of nine members who are active members of the State Bar of Nevada, and four members who are professionals with expertise in fields that are germane to the determination of the character and fitness issues confronted by the Committee. Five of the attorney members shall be appointed by the supreme court, and four of the attorney members shall be appointed by the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors shall also appoint the four lay members of the Committee. The supreme court shall appoint one of the attorney members to chair the Committee. The terms of the members of the Committee shall be staggered, and each member of the Committee shall be appointed for a term of three years; provided however, that no member may serve on the Committee for more than a lifetime total of nine years.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that for each formal hearing, the Committee may be divided by its Chair into as many hearing panels as the Chair believes is necessary to conduct hearings in that district. A hearing panel shall be composed of a minimum of four members, one of whom may be a non-lawyer to be determined on a case by case basis by the Committee Chair. The Chair will assign applicants for hearings to the panels and may sit as Chair for the panel or designate an attorney to sit as Acting Chair in his or her place.

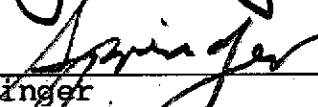
IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that for those applicants whose applications reflect conduct or information warranting further inquiry, but not warranting a formal hearing, the Chair and the Director of Admissions may conduct an informal interview in an attempt to counsel an applicant or to resolve a matter informally. If the matter is not resolved to the satisfaction of the Chair, a formal hearing may be held.

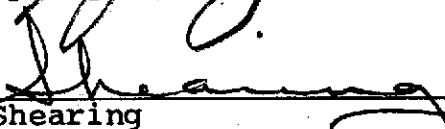
IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that this order shall be effective immediately, and that the additional members of this Committee shall be appointed within thirty (30) days from the date of this order.

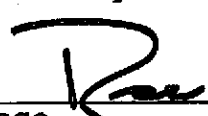
DATED this 5th day of April, 1996.


Steffen, C. J.


Young, J.


Springer, J.


Shearing, J.


Rose, J.

cc: Franny Forsman, President, State Bar of Nevada
Ronald D. Alling, Chair, Board of Bar Examiners
Keith Lee, Chair, Committee on Moral Character and Fitness
Deena Trueblood, Admissions Director
Wayne Blevins, Executive Director, State Bar of Nevada