

**BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS
OF WEST VIRGINIA**

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Jarrell Lee Clifton, II, a former member
of the West Virginia State Bar.

Petitioner

vs.)

Office of Disciplinary Counsel

Respondent

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S. Ct. No.:

**VERIFIED PETITION FOR REINSTATEMENT TO PRACTICE LAW
IN WEST VIRGINIA**

NOW COMES, Jarrell L. Clifton, II, *pro se*, pursuant to Rules 3.30 and 3.33, W. Va. Rules of Lawyer Disciplinary Procedure, and submits this verified Petition for Readmission to Practice Law in West Virginia, and, in support of his Petition submits the Reinstatement Questionnaire required by said Rule and respectfully states as follows:

(1) That Petitioner is the same Jarrell L. Clifton, II whose license was, pursuant to Order dated and entered in Supreme Court of Appeals Case No. 13-1128, Lawyer Disciplinary Board v. Jarrell L. Clifton, II on October 6, 2015, filed as annulled effective November 18, 2015.

(2) That a disciplinary proceeding was instituted against Petitioner by the Office of Disciplinary Counsel ("ODC") after a statement of charges by the Lawyer Disciplinary Board ("LDB") dated November 5, 2013, was submitted. (**SEE, attached Exhibit A, STATEMENT OF CHARGES.**) The statement of charges followed a criminal investigation of allegations stemming from conduct occurring in 2010. The criminal investigation prompted the indictment of Petitioner in August 2012. The indictment was dismissed with prejudice upon motion by the State and so Ordered by Senior Status Judge, John L. Henning in January 2013. (**SEE, attached Exhibit B, ORDER.**) Subsequently, in April 2013 a stay on the disciplinary proceedings requested by Petitioner was lifted. A hearing was held on November 10 and 11, 2014 before the Hearing Panel Subcommittee ("HPS") of the LDB. The HPS determined that Petitioner engaged in unethical conduct, violating Rules 1.7(b), 8.1(a), 8.4(b), 8.4(c), and 8.4(d) of the West Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct, and the HPS recommended that Petitioner receive, among other sanctions, a two-year suspension of his law license. (**SEE, attached Exhibit C, REPORT OF THE HEARING PANEL SUBCOMMITTEE.**) By Order of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia submitted on October 6, 2015, and filed on November 18, 2015, with Justice Benjamin delivering the Opinion of this Honorable Court, Petitioner's Law License was Annulled. (**SEE, attached Exhibit D, LAW LICENSE ANNULLED.**)

- (3) That more than five years have passed since entry of the order of annulment of Petitioner's license to practice and Petitioner is thus eligible to seek readmission to practice law pursuant to Rule 3.33(b), W. Va. Rules of Lawyer Disciplinary Enforcement.
- (4) That Petitioner has fulfilled all requirements imposed upon him in the order of annulment entered by this Honorable Court. He has maintained a high level of knowledge and skill in the law of West Virginia and of the United States since annulment of his license.
- (5) That Petitioner has lived a life without incident or complaint concerning his conduct or behavior for over 8 years, has complied with requirements relating to his annulment and removal from the bar, has lived a law-abiding, responsible and ethical life, and has become a positive asset to the Church, to his family, to his employers and to the greater community.
- (6) That Petitioner continues to work diligently towards self-improvement in all areas of his life, and until recently, has remained employed in the legal field, has continued extensive community service of his own volition, has completely and unequivocally accepted responsibility for all his wrongdoing, and is unequivocally remorseful.
- (7) That Petitioner has proven his integrity, fundamental honesty, respect for the law and respect for the rights of others, and that his reinstatement shall not bring disrepute on the bar or the Court in the eyes of the public or members of the West Virginia State Bar nor constitute any threat to the integrity of the justice system in the State of West Virginia. Petitioner's life of honorable behavior since removal also stands as evidence that there is very little likelihood that, if reinstated, he will again engage in unethical or unprofessional conduct.
- (8) That Petitioner has filed with this Petition the required Questionnaire which provides comprehensive detail of the occasion of his annulment as well as the references and sources by which the Office of Disciplinary Counsel and a Hearing Panel Subcommittee of the Lawyer Disciplinary Board can efficiently and promptly determine his present fitness for reinstatement to the practice of law in West Virginia.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner prays that this Honorable Court file this Petition with its related Questionnaire and Exhibits, make appropriate referral of this matter to the Lawyer Disciplinary Board, and reinstate Petitioner Clifton to the practice of law in West Virginia following whatever process is necessary and required.

Respectfully submitted this 12th day of June, 2024.


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