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SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA

NO. 2014-BA-1941

IN RE: COMMITTEE ON BAR ADMISSIONS CFN-2202

BAR ADMISSIONS PROCEEDING

WEIMER, J., concurring in the denial of reconsideration.

While I hesitate to concur and thereby draw further attention to this unfortunate situation, as respectfully as I can say it, the assumption should not be made that admission was denied solely due to past substance abuse. This case is not analogous to others in which conditional admission has been granted following a demonstrated period of recovery. Certainly, the record of substance abuse is extensive and gives one pause when reviewing this application. However, recent indications are that the substance abuse has been eradicated from the applicant's present life, which is commendable. Furthermore, the recognition and support the applicant has received from members of the legal community are also encouraging indicators.

If one views this application only from the standpoint of the applicant's ongoing recovery from substance abuse, however, the full picture does not emerge. What distinguishes this case from others in which conditional admission has been granted¹ is the applicant's extensive criminal record. I readily recognize there may be an interrelationship between the applicant's substance abuse and multiple DUI convictions. However, at the risk of stating the obvious, multiple instances of criminal conduct endangering the safety of the public stand separate and apart from substance

¹ See, e.g., **In re: Committee on Bar Admissions CFN-919381**, 15-0248 (La. 3/27/15), ___ So. 3d ____.

abuse and cannot be disregarded. See La. Sup. Ct. Rule 17, § 5(D) (Indicating that for purposes of admission to the bar, “[t]he term ‘good moral character’ includes, but is not limited to, the qualities of honesty, fairness, candor, trustworthiness, observances of fiduciary responsibility and of the laws of the State of Louisiana and of the United States of America, and a respect for the rights of other persons.”). Indeed, the applicant himself recognizes that his criminal record is “damning.”

As a result of this “damning” criminal record, distinguishing this matter from others dealing solely with substance abuse is straightforward. Thus, there is no inconsistency or arbitrariness in the court’s present denial of admission.