

READMISSION TO THE PRACTICE OF LAW IN GEORGIA FOLLOWING DISBARMENT

An applicant for Readmission following disbarment should first contact the Membership Department of the State Bar of Georgia (404/527-8700) and request that a letter be sent to the Office of Bar Admissions advising of the applicant's status with the State Bar.

Application

An applicant seeking readmission to the practice of law in Georgia following disbarment is required to file an Application for Certification of Fitness pursuant to the provisions of Part A, Section 10 of the [Rules Governing Admission to the Practice of Law in Georgia](#).

Procedure

If the Board to Determine Fitness of Bar Applicants (Fitness Board), after review and investigation, determines that an applicant for readmission should be certified, the Board files a report and the complete record of its proceedings with the Clerk of the Supreme Court. Notice is given to the applicant. The Supreme Court of Georgia makes the final determination regarding Certification of Fitness for applicants for readmission following disbarment.

Rehabilitation

An applicant for readmission must establish to the Fitness Board's and the Supreme Court's satisfaction, by clear and convincing evidence, that he or she has been fully rehabilitated from the conduct causing disbarment. The Supreme Court of Georgia explained in *In Re: Cason*, 249 Ga. 806, 808 (1982), that "[f]or bar fitness purposes, rehabilitation is the reestablishment of the reputation of a person by his or her restoration to a useful and constructive place in society." The Court provided the following guidance: "Positive action showing rehabilitation may be evidenced by such things as a person's occupation, religion, or community service" *Cason* at 809.

An applicant for readmission must submit documentary evidence of rehabilitation from such sources as occupation, religion, community service, community leaders, members of the Bar. For further instruction of the evidence required to establish rehabilitation for readmission, the applicant is directed to the Policy Statement of the Board to Determine Fitness of Bar Applicants and the opinions of the Supreme Court of Georgia in readmission cases, such as *In the Matter of Bridges*, 289 Ga. 112 (2011), *In the Matter of Calhoun*, 286 Ga. 471 (2010), *In the Matter of Friedberg*, 256 Ga. 472 (2010), *In the Matter of Hawk*, S1520412 (2014), *In the Matter of Kendall*, S1521802 (2015) and *In the Matter of Siegelman*, 285 Ga. 817 (2009).