

ORIGINAL

FILED  
BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO  
SEP 12 2011  
CLERK OF COURT  
SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

In the matter of the admission  
of JEFFREY VINCENT GUELI  
to The Bar of Ohio

Case No. 2011-1323

THE APPLICANT'S BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF HIS APPEAL TO THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

I am a member in good standing of The Florida Bar. I was admitted to The Florida Bar on September 26, 2005, and ever since then, I have been licensed and fully eligible to practice law in Florida. There has never been one day on which The Florida Bar has told me that I was mentally ill and consequently unable to practice law. The Florida Bar was always of the opinion that I was competent to practice law. So why has The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association denied my application for admission to The Bar of Ohio? And why has The Board of Commissioners on Character and Fitness likewise refused to admit me to practice in Ohio? Because they are being irrational and unfair—and this Court must remedy this situation.

Back in 2009, The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association issued a ruling to the effect that I was so profoundly mentally ill that I should never be allowed to practice law in Ohio. Recently, The Board of Commissioners on Character and Fitness released a decision denying my application for admission and allowing me to reapply to take the July, 2014 bar examination; the ruling asserted that I was so mentally ill that I was in need of a three-year contract with the Ohio Lawyers' Assistance Program. These decisions are unfair because I am not profoundly mentally ill. I have had some issues with depression and alcoholism, but nothing that should cause my bar application to be denied—The Florida Bar sent me to a diversion program to remedy my mental health issues and allowed me to remain licensed to practice law; why couldn't The Bar of Ohio do the same thing?

Five years ago, I filed a lawsuit against The United States of America, George W. Bush, The State of Florida, John Ellis Bush, and Earl Wilson Moreland, Jr. The lawsuit alleged a conspiracy to tamper with my mail, harm my business, and kill me. The allegations I made in the lawsuit proved to

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be without merit—I was under the impression that the defendants were after me, but they really weren't. As a result of my beliefs about what the defendants did to me, I was diagnosed with depression. Also, my drinking was out of control at this time, and consequently, I was diagnosed with alcoholism.

I have been treated for depression and alcoholism for several years now, and my conditions have improved dramatically. I am no longer depressed and paranoid. I no longer think that anybody is trying to kill me. And I no longer drink alcohol. The success I have had with my treatment prompted my psychiatrist to form the opinion that I am competent to practice law in Ohio. She appeared by telephone at the hearing before The Board of Commissioners on Character and Fitness to express her opinion. In its decision, the Board opted to disregard her opinion and deny my application. This Court should remedy that error.

I also object to the Board's observation that I lack honesty. The Board says that the fact that I told Dr. Wolf that I was attending AA meetings when I was not is indicative of lack of honesty. But attendance at AA meetings is not critically important. What is important is my drinking habits. I have always been honest with Dr. Wolf about my drinking. I was the one who went to her with a drinking problem in the first place! Nobody told her I had a drinking problem—I was the one who told her that; I was honest with her.

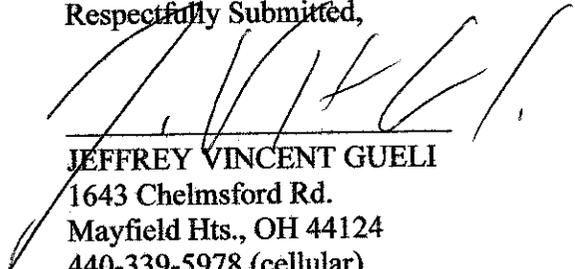
The Board also asserts that I have an inability to know or tell the truth. I object to this finding. I was always truthful with Dr. Wolf and Mr. Caimi on material issues. I genuinely wanted help from those individuals and I wouldn't conceal the truth from them, thereby hindering their efforts to provide me with assistance. I have no problem knowing or telling the truth, and I do not appreciate The Board's inaccurate observation.

Finally, The Board observes that I have "steadfastly resisted effective treatment" for alcoholism. That is inaccurate—I have been responding to treatment well. Over the past year and one-half, I have passed nearly all of the alcohol and drug tests I have been given. I have a proven

record of success in avoiding alcohol and drugs, and this Court should take note of that in evaluating my candidacy for admission to The Bar of Ohio.

No doubt, the Court can see that there were errors in the proceedings below. Most notably, Dr. Wolf testified that I am competent to practice law, and I have been a member in good standing of The Florida Bar for the past six years, yet my application for admission to The Bar of Ohio was denied. The Board of Commissioners on Character and Fitness made a poor decision, and this Court should reverse that decision and admit me to the practice of law in Ohio.

Respectfully Submitted,

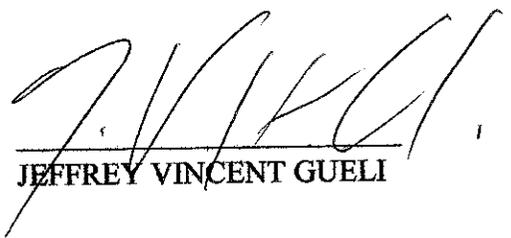


JEFFREY VINCENT GUELI  
1643 Chelmsford Rd.  
Mayfield Hts., OH 44124  
440-339-5978 (cellular)  
[jvincentgueli@hotmail.com](mailto:jvincentgueli@hotmail.com)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on September 10, 2011, a true copy of this document was furnished to:

Tucker Ellis & West LLP  
Ms. Susan Audey  
925 Euclid Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44115



JEFFREY VINCENT GUELI