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Original

LOUISIANA ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD By: Amy D. Panepinto

IN RE: GLENN M. CONSTANTINO, JR.

DOCKET NO. 25-DB015

REPORT OF HEARING COMMITTEE #40

This is a proceeding based upon a filing of a petition and application for reinstatement to the practice of law following the suspension of Glenn M. Constantino, Jr. ("Mr. Constantino"), Louisiana Bar Roll Number 20147.

INTRODUCTION AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The original circumstances were significant to this Hearing Committee, and it took those into consideration in its current decision, so they are included. In 1997, Mr. Constantino reported himself to the ODC for trust account violations involving money withheld from settlements to be paid to third parties. The total amount removed over the course of his conduct was approximately \$58,000.00. Through the system of removing and replacing client trust account funds, the maximum deficit at any one time was between \$10,000.00 and \$15,000.00. The original hearing committee noted that at the time of the hearing, Respondent had apparently made full reimbursement to all of the third parties, except for one individual he owed approximately \$700.00, and with whom he had made an agreement for periodic payments.¹

As a result of his own self-reporting, Respondent and the ODC filed a joint motion for interim suspension, effective on January 31, 1997. ODC subsequently instituted formal charges and Respondent admitted to the charges. As a result, the formal hearing

¹ In re Constantino, 98-0817 (6/5/1998), 714 So.2d 690

was limited to the presentation of respondent's mitigating evidence. The Respondent had fully cooperated with ODC and openly acknowledged he suffered from a compulsive disorder involving gambling. He was actively attending meetings and participating in counseling. He displayed genuine remorse and regret for his actions and their implications for the legal profession, his family, his clients and himself. Mr. Constantino was suspended from the practice of law for a period of two years, retroactive to his interim suspension.²

On March 31, 2025, twenty-eight years later, Mr. Constantino filed for reinstatement to the practice of law.

RESPONSE OF ODC

On June 3, 2025, the Office of Disciplinary Counsel ("ODC") filed its response to the petition. ODC took no position regarding the reinstatement, which requires a hearing pursuant to Louisiana Supreme Court Rule XIX, §24(F). ODC conceded it had no information to indicate Respondent would be unable to satisfy his burden of proof, but thought the matter warranted a hearing so Mr. Constantino could make a record and explain the delay.

EVIDENCE AND TESTIMONY

The hearing was held on August 8, 2025. Harry J. Philips, Jr., appeared on behalf of Mr. Constantino. Deputy Disciplinary Counsel Paul E. Pendley appeared on behalf of ODC. Exhibits R1-R8 were admitted into evidence without objection. Those exhibits were as follows:

- R-1 Publication of Intent to Apply for Reinstatement (La. Bar Journal & The Advocate);

² Ibid.

- R-2 Continuing Legal Education;
- R-3 Certificates from the Client Assistance Fund;
- R-4 Documents Relative to the Bingo License Application on behalf of Subiaco Abbey;
- R-5 Reports from Heather Kleckinger (March 6, 2023 & December 5, 2024);
- R-6 Letters of Recommendation
 - a. James R. Chastain;
 - b. Charles McGowen, II; and
 - c. Thomas A. "Tim" Barfield.
- R-7 Payment of LSBA dues and Disciplinary Assessment; and
- R-8 Payment of Costs and Fees Due from Original Disciplinary Proceedings.

Mr. Constantino testified with remarkable candor and sincerity. He showed a diverse range of emotions while testifying. He was sad and contrite when recalling his transgressions. His demeanor clearly evinced the remorse he had for his actions. To say his discipline was a humbling experience for him is a gross understatement. He accepted full responsibility, blamed no one but himself, and made no excuses for it. On the other hand, when he spoke of his current employment and "simple" life with the monks, he was exuberant. He clearly relishes his current role which provides him with a unique opportunity to use his talents for worthy causes.

Most importantly, Mr. Constantino explained that he did not always enjoy practicing law. It certainly wasn't anything that was missing in his life. He probably never would have reapplied, but the monks at the Abbey requested he do so in order to be able to serve as in-house counsel for them. He currently utilizes his undergraduate degree in accounting and lives about five hundred yards from the monastery with his wife and children. The monks testified they would benefit from his reinstatement, and they were

willing to pay for this process in order to utilize another of his talents. They could hire another attorney, but they “knew his heart” and preferred it be him whenever possible, “because you can’t buy that.” Mr. Constantino has also researched what would be required of him by the Arkansas Bar Association.

In addition to his own testimony, Mr. Constantino called the following witnesses:

1. **Abbot Elijah Owens-** Abbot Owens testified remotely by audio-visual transmission. Abbot Owens is the Head of the Subiaco Abbey in Arkansas, which is a Benedictine Missionary establishment, and where Mr. Constantino has been employed as the procurator for approximately two decades. Subiaco Abbey has approximately forty Benedictine monks who live in a monastic community and follow the Rule of St. Benedict, seeking God through prayer, work and communal life. As procurator, Mr. Constantino financially oversees all aspects of an extremely large budget that allows the monastery to do everything from running a boarding school to missionary work. He is required by Abbot Elijah to be “humble, wise, temperate and honest” due to the position of great trust. He has unequivocally earned the trust and respect from this community, and also ascribes to their code of honor and ethics. He vouched for Mr. Constantino “without hesitation or reservation.”
2. **Fr. Jerome Kodell-** Fr. Kodell also testified by audio-visual transmission. He was the leader (“Abbot”) of the monastery for twenty-five years and was originally the person who hired Mr. Constantino. He also praised Mr. Constantino as being a trusted asset to their community.

3. **James “Sonny” Chastain-** A licensed attorney and life-long friend and school mate who maintains contact with Mr. Constantino. He testified how Mr. Constantino accepted responsibility for his past and mistakes, but had no concerns whatsoever about him currently.
4. **Thomas A. “Tim” Barfield-** A licensed attorney and life-long friend and school mate who maintains contact with Mr. Constantino. He too had no reservation whatsoever in recommending his reinstatement.
5. **Charles B. “Chuck” Plattsmier-** Mr. Plattsmier was also regarded as a friend, and Mr. Constantino had remained in contact with him. Mr. Plattsmier reported this was a unique situation and not one he generally found himself in after taking another attorney’s license to practice law. He also unequivocally supported the reinstatement.

In order to be reinstated, a petitioner must prove by clear and convincing evidence that he has satisfied the requirements of Rule XIX, §24. Section 24(E) establishes the substantive criteria for reinstatement and readmission. In addition to the procedural process and publication notices, paragraph E. requires:

(1) The lawyer has fully complied with the terms and conditions of all prior disciplinary orders except to the extent that they are abated under Section 25.

ODC confirmed and conceded this element was satisfied.

(2) The lawyer has not engaged nor attempted to engage in the unauthorized practice of law during the period of suspension or disbarment.

Mr. Constantino provided proof in the form of tax returns showing he had not practiced law and orally testified about his employment history, none of which was

disputed by ODC. He also described the delicate situation he was in when the Abbey hired other attorneys and he participated in meetings. He would literally suggest the legal concepts he felt the attorneys needed to explain to the monks, instead of doing so directly himself.

(3) If the lawyer was suffering under a physical or mental disability or infirmity at the time of suspension or disbarment, including alcohol or other drug abuse, the disability or infirmity has been removed. Where alcohol or other drug abuse was a causative factor in the lawyer's misconduct, the lawyer shall not be reinstated or readmitted unless all three conditions noted below are met:

(a) the lawyer has pursued and complied with the treatment recommendations of the Judge's and Lawyer's Assistance Program ("JLAP") and has complied with the conditions of the monitoring contract;

(b) the lawyer has offered evidence of sustained abstinence from addictive substances or processes and/or has offered evidence of compliance with recommended healthcare regimen prescribed by provider(s) that meet JLAP standards; and

(c) A healthcare provider or team of providers that meets JLAP standards who has been involved with the care of the lawyer indicates in writing that the lawyer's prognosis is sufficiently good to predict that the lawyer will continue to manage any condition or disability effectively.

According to the uncontradicted testimony of Mr. Constantino, he has not placed a bet since 1996. Doctor Heather Kleckinger provided a detailed report (R-5) and characterized Mr. Constantino as a "low" (the lowest threshold possible) risk of relapse. She gave a detailed history of Mr. Constantino's gambling compulsion history, the detrimental effects it had on him and his family, and like everyone else, recognized and applauded his candor. He continues to attend GA meetings, although his current residence is in a remote area of Arkansas and that is somewhat of a hinderance. When he does have the opportunity to participate, he

does and actually enjoys them. He is also prudent about not getting too compulsive about anything, including stress from projects at work. He has to make a conscious decision to put the task in perspective.

(4) The lawyer recognizes the wrongfulness and seriousness of the misconduct for which the lawyer was suspended or disbarred.

Mr. Constantino was emotionally moved to tears during his own testimony, and clearly embarrassed and sincerely remorseful about his prior conduct. He owned it. When others testified highly of him, he seemed so moved that at times he struggled to maintain his composure because he was so touched by the accolades. The pained look on his face seem to indicate he felt unworthy of the praise, and probably that he hasn't forgiven himself for his failures.

(5) The lawyer has not engaged in any other professional misconduct since suspension or disbarment.

Again, ODC did not challenge this and Mr. Constantino provided the committee with multiple examples of his employment history where he was involved in the handling of significant amounts of money for other people. Each of these situations was subject to financial audits, with not a single transgression.

(6) Notwithstanding the conduct for which the lawyer was disciplined, the lawyer has the requisite honesty and integrity to practice law.

In perhaps the ultimate *res ipsa loquitor*, Mr. Charles Plattsmier testified under oath (in addition to two monks and two life-long friends), that he had absolutely no reservations that Mr. Constantino has the requisite honesty and integrity to practice law.

(7) The lawyer has kept informed about recent developments in the law and is competent to practice and has satisfied MCLE requirements

for the year of reinstatement or readmission even if the lawyer seeking reinstatement or readmission is exempt from satisfying MCLE requirements because of age.

(8) The lawyer has paid to the Louisiana State Bar Association currently owed bar dues.

(9) The lawyer has paid all filing fees owed to the Clerk of Court and all disciplinary costs to the Disciplinary Board. In the event the lawyer has executed a payment plan with the Disciplinary Board for these costs, the lawyer must be current on all payments in order to qualify to petition for reinstatement or readmission.

(10) The lawyer has paid to the Disciplinary Board currently owed disciplinary administration and enforcement fees required under Section 8(A) of this rule and has filed the registration statement required under Section 8(C) of this rule.

(11) The lawyer shall obtain a certification from the Client Assistance Fund that no payments have been made by the Fund to any of the lawyer's clients. To the extent that Client Assistance Funds have been paid to qualifying clients, the lawyer shall obtain a certification from the Fund that the Fund has been reimbursed in its entirety, or alternatively, that a payment plan is in effect which will result in reimbursement to the Fund. In the event the lawyer has executed a payment plan with the Fund for these costs, the lawyer must be current on all payments in order to qualify to petition for reinstatement or readmission.

Factors (7) through (11) were established by the exhibits introduced by Mr. Constantino.

RECOMMENDATION

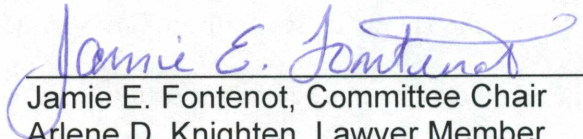
The Committee emphatically recommends that Glenn M. Constantino, Jr.'s petition to be reinstated be GRANTED. He not only met, but exceeded, the burden of proving by "clear and convincing evidence" he deserves it.

The Committee also recommends that Petitioner be assessed with the costs and expenses of this proceeding pursuant to Rule XIX, §10.1.

This opinion is unanimous and has been reviewed by each committee member, who fully concur with and who have authorized Jamie E. Fontenot, to sign on their behalf.

Port Allen, Louisiana, this 16th day of August, 2025.

Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board
Hearing Committee #40



Jamie E. Fontenot, Committee Chair
Arlene D. Knighten, Lawyer Member
Renita D. Williams-Thomas, Public Member

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

**In re: Glenn M Constantino Jr
Docket No. 25-DB-015**

I, Raul V. Esquivel, the undersigned Board Administrator for the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board, certify that a copy of the foregoing Hearing Committee Report and Initial Cost Statement has been mailed to the Respondent Attorney, by E-mail and/or United States Mail and E-Filed to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, on September 03, 2025 at the following address:

**Via E-Mail
Mr. Harry J Philips Jr
Counsel of Record
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**Via E-File
Mr. Paul E Pendley
Deputy Disciplinary Counsel
4000 South Sherwood Forest Blvd.
Suite 607
Baton Rouge, LA 70816**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raul V. Esquivel".

*Raul V. Esquivel III
Board Administrator*