

Dissent to Larry S. Bankston Being Reinstated to the Practice of Law  
Issued by Richard E. Gerard

January 29, 2004

In re: Larry S. Bankston

Docket No(s): 03-DB-002

I am sorry I cannot agree with the Panel's Recommendation. I do not know Mr. Bankston personally, and know nothing of him other than what I have read in newspaper accounts. He is a convicted felon. The public, apparently, has a general perception that all lawyers are crooks and shysters. We have made monumental strides in the last few years toward policing our profession and ridding it of individuals who are, indeed, crooks and shysters. To readmit a disbarred, convicted felon to the practice of law sends the wrong message to the public and, for that matter, to other law abiding members of the bar. I am not impressed with the recitation of testimony from his contemporaries, the fact that he got one hundred people to write letters of recommendation for him, or that he now expresses remorse for his actions. If those are the criteria, Edwin Edwards should be released from prison and readmitted immediately. I respectfully dissent.

RICHARD E. GERARD, JR.