

294 Md. 538
Court of Appeals of Maryland.

In re Application of MARIA C. for
Admission to the Bar of Maryland.

Misc. No. 24.
|
Oct. 26, 1982.

Application was filed for admission to the bar. The Court of Appeals, held that on consideration of the favorable recommendation of the State Board of Law Examiners, applicant was admitted to the bar, notwithstanding previous concealment of shoplifting conviction.

Applicant admitted.

Smith, J., filed dissenting opinion.

West Headnotes (1)

[1] **Attorney and Client**

↪ Determination of Right to Admission

On consideration of favorable recommendation of the State Board of Law Examiners, applicant was admitted to the bar, notwithstanding previous concealment of shoplifting conviction.

5 Cases that cite this headnote

Attorneys and Law Firms

**655 *538 Phillip G. Dantes, Baltimore, for applicant.

Argued before MURPHY, C.J., and SMITH, ELDRIDGE, COLE, DAVIDSON, RODOWSKY and COUCH, JJ.

ORDER

Upon consideration of the favorable recommendation of the State Board of Law Examiners for admission to the Bar of Maryland of MARIA C., it is this 26th day of October, 1982

ORDERED, by the Court of Appeals of Maryland, a majority of the Court concurring, that the favorable recommendation of the State Board be, and it is hereby, adopted; and it is further

ORDERED that the said applicant be admitted to the Bar of Maryland upon taking the oath prescribed by the statute, subject only to the filing of an updating oath as to character information.

SMITH, J., dissents.

SMITH, Judge, dissenting.

I dissent from admitting this convicted shoplifter to the bar. Lest there be any misunderstanding on the subject, I observe that the recommendation from the Board of Law Examiners for her admission was not unanimous. Also, *539 there was dissension on the issue in the character committee.

Maria C. concealed the fact of her conviction when she filled out her law school application in 1977. She likewise concealed that fact in 1975 when she completed an employment questionnaire prior to being hired by the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City as a bailiff to a juvenile master. For no apparent reason she showed herself on the latter application to be three years older than she actually was. Moreover, in a letter to the character committee under date of May 12, 1981, she stated, "I concealed this conviction, not only on my application to the ... School of Law, but on all job applications filled out since that time." (Emphasis added.) It is evident also from a perusal of the transcript of the hearing before the character committee that some members of the committee believed she was not completely candid in her explanations of her driving record and the fact that a number of motor vehicle fines went unpaid over a number of years.

There was a suggestion at oral argument in this Court and also before the character committee that this young woman should be commended for her frankness because her conviction was under the name of Smith and not under the surname to which she was born and which she apparently proposes using professionally. Accordingly, it was argued that this conviction would never have been discovered had she not disclosed it to the Board of Law Examiners. What this argument completely overlooks is the fact that the report to the character committee from the Baltimore City Police Department reflects the arrest for this shoplifting incident