

FILED
SUPREME COURT BAR DOCKET
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

DEC 12 2011

MICHAEL S. RICHIE
CLERK

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN RE: APPLICATION OF JEFFREY JOHN ZANOTTI)
500 CENTRAL PARK DR, APT 2414, OKC, OK 73105,)
FOR SPECIAL TEMPORARY PERMIT TO PRACTICE LAW)
IN OKLAHOMA UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF RULE TWO,)
SECTION 5, OF THE *RULES GOVERNING ADMISSION TO*)
THE PRACTICE OF LAW IN OKLAHOMA)

SCBD NO. 5819

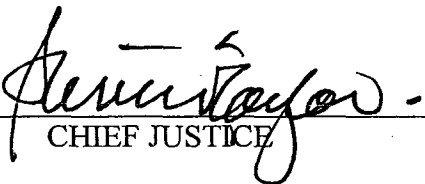
ORDER

The Board of Bar Examiners of the State of Oklahoma has filed its Report and Recommendation finding that Jeffrey John Zanotti (Petitioner) should be granted a special temporary permit to practice law in Oklahoma under the provision of rule 2, section 5 of the Rules Governing Admission to the Practice of Law in the State of Oklahoma (RGAPL), 5 O.S.2009, ch. 1, app. 5.

From a review of the Report and Recommendation and the documents attached thereto, this Court finds that the Petitioner is now employed by Chesapeake Operating, Inc./Chesapeake Energy Corporation which is engaged in business in the State of Oklahoma; that the Petitioner's employment is devoted to Chesapeake Operating, Inc./Chesapeake Energy; that the Petitioner receives his entire compensation from Chesapeake Operating, Inc./Chesapeake Energy for the Petitioner's legal services; and that Petitioner receives no compensation for legal services from any source other than Chesapeake Operating, Inc./Chesapeake Energy. This Court further finds that Petitioner was admitted to the Texas Bar on November 3, 2006, and is an active member in good standing. Also based on the Report and Recommendation, this Court finds that the Petitioner is fully qualified to take the bar examination in Oklahoma under the rules of this Court.

It is ordered that Jeffrey John Zanotti be granted a special temporary permit to practice law in the State of Oklahoma pursuant to rule 2, section 5 of the RGAPL for the purpose of employment with Chesapeake Operating, Inc./Chesapeake Energy as provided above. The permit granted herein will be valid for so long as Jeffrey John Zanotti is so employed; devotes full time employment to Chesapeake Operating, Inc./Chesapeake Energy, and receives no other compensation for legal services from other than from Chesapeake Operating, Inc./Chesapeake Energy. The right of Jeffrey John Zanotti to practice law in the State of Oklahoma under the special temporary permit granted herein shall terminate upon the termination of the above stated employment or upon transfer outside the State of Oklahoma, and Petitioner is required to so inform the Oklahoma Bar Association of such a change in his employment. The Special Temporary Permit shall be subject to Rule 10 of the RGAPL which revokes the permit if Petitioner takes the Oklahoma bar examination and fails the examination.

DONE BY ORDER OF THE SUPREME COURT IN CONFERENCE this 12th day of December, 2011.


CHIEF JUSTICE

Concur: Taylor, C.J., Colbert, V.C.J., and Winchester, Edmondson, and Reif, JJ.

Dissent: Watt (by separate writing), Combs (joins Watt), and Gurich (joins Watt), JJ.

Not participating: Kauger, J.

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) SCBD #581
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WATT, J., with whom COMBS and GURICH, JJ. join, dissenting:

While this applicant has technically met the requirements for a temporary permit, I would issue a show cause order for the applicant to show cause why he has not been engaged in the unauthorized practice of law from September 7, 2010, when he began his current employment, through March 16, 2011 – a period in excess of six months prior to him filing his application for this temporary permit.

Lastly, if a temporary permit is granted, the petitioner should understand that any period of practice in Oklahoma under said temporary permit may not be counted toward the five years of continuous practice in a reciprocal state in order to gain full admission to the Oklahoma Bar under those provisions of Rule 2. Assuming continuous practice in Texas since his admission there in November 2006, the petitioner had only three years and ten months of practice when hired by this current employer. If he wishes to become a full member of the Oklahoma bar, he should register for the next available bar examination.