

## **CHARACTER & FITNESS: GETTING YANKED OUT OF THE QUEUE**

YOU worked hard in law school, YOU took on loans, YOU sweated through bar exam prep course, and YOU rose to the occasion and passed the bar exam, but the CHARACTER & FITNESS COMMITTEE has pulled you out of the queue and told you that you won't be sworn in with your classmates—not yet...



### **What to Expect?**

You are one of the dozen to two dozen applicants flagged by the Committee for any one or more of fifteen issues ranging from “commission or conviction of a crime” to “neglect of financial responsibilities” to “any other conduct that reflects adversely upon the character or fitness of the applicant.” Notwithstanding your academic success and test-taking prowess, **the burden is on you to prove your fitness by clear and convincing evidence.**

You can expect a demand for further answers to your questionnaire, a demand for an interview, or even a full hearing.

- **Some cases are resolved well short of a hearing by timely and well-drafted responses to written inquiries. The failure to respond, or the submission of poorly conceived and drafted responses, or being unprepared for your interview raises the risk of being summonsed to a full hearing.**
- **If you have to go to hearing, your case requires thorough and deliberate preparation of evidence and argument through documents, witnesses, a brief, and your appearance only after YOU have been thoroughly prepared.**

**My Approach:** Early representation can result in a swift resolution without the need for a hearing. If a hearing is necessary, early retention allows for the identification and development of relevant and persuasive evidence to reassure the Committee of your fitness. Pre-hearing representation is hourly, with hearing representation being a flat fee.