

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION

Entered January 9, 1990

IN RE: JAMES EDDIE TATUM'S APPLICATION
FOR ADMISSION TO PRACTICE
STATE BAR NO. 19672000

ORDER NO. 90-3

MEMORANDUM & ORDER

On October 17, 1989, the Court conducted a hearing on Mr. James Eddie Tatum's application for admission to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas pursuant to Local Rule 1E.

Mr. Tatum filed his application on November 12, 1987. On November 24, 1987, the Clerk forwarded the application to Blake Tartt, Jr., Chairman of the Committee on Admission and Grievance. Rule 1E provides for the committee to review the application and make a recommendation to the Court. Nevertheless, by letter dated May 10, 1988, Amelia A. Wymer, Mr. Tartt's legal assistant, informed Mr. Tatum that the Committee would not approve his application.

On June 14, 1988, Mr. Tatum wrote to the Honorable James De Anda, Chief Judge of the Southern District of Texas, requesting a hearing on his application. Through the Clerk's office, Judge De Anda referred the matter to this Court.

Mr. Tatum's application states that a disciplinary suit was filed against him by the State Bar of Texas. The judgment, rendered by the 11th Judicial District Court, Harris County, Texas, on January 14, 1987, is attached to the application.

The judgment details four complaints brought against Mr. Tatum. Two complaints concern

Mr. Tatum's failure to promptly return unearned fees. A third complaint involves depositing a settlement check into a general operating bank account, and thereby not keeping the identify of a client's money separate. The fourth complaint relates to Mr. Tatum's failing to timely withdraw or complete work for a client.

Plaintiff was suspended from the practice of law in the State of Texas for a 60-day period in March and April 1987.

In support of his application, Mr. Tatum submitted two character reference letters written by Mary Ann George Graves and Ellis C. McCullough. Mr. Tatum was admitted to the Texas Bar on May 12, 1966. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Tatum states that he was admitted to the Southern District of Texas and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. On February 21, 1971, Mr. Tatum states that he was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States.

At the October 17, 1989, hearing, attorneys Bennie House and Don Rogers testified on behalf of Mr. Tatum. Mr. House stated that there was no reason for Mr. Tatum not to be admitted. Mr. Rogers noted that Mr. Tatum conducts an ethical practice and is a credible person.

Mr. Craig Landin appeared on behalf of the State Bar of Texas. He testified that Mr. Tatum's difficulties with the State Bar had been resolved and that there was no impediment to Mr. Tatum's practice of law in Texas' State Courts.

Therefore,, the Court finds Mr. Tatum to be a credible person who has brought credible witnesses to testify on his behalf. The Court further finds that there is no reason why Mr. Tatum should not be admitted to practice before this Court.

Accordingly, as liaison judge appointed by the full court, this Court grants Mr. Tatum's application and admits Mr. Tatum to practice before the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

DONE at Houston, Texas, on October 24, 1989.

/s/

Woodrow Seals
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE