

State of New York
Supreme Court, Appellate Division
Third Judicial Department

Decided and Entered: October 30, 2008

D-59-08

In the Matter of RICHARD J.
HAAS, a Suspended Attorney.

COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL
STANDARDS,

Petitioner;

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

RICHARD J. HAAS,

Respondent.

(Attorney Registration No. 2001238)

Calendar Date: September 17, 2008

Before: Cardona, P.J., Mercure, Spain, Rose and Lahtinen, JJ.

Mark S. Ochs, Committee on Professional Standards, Albany
(Michael G. Gaynor of counsel), for petitioner.

Richard J. Haas, Colorado Springs, Colorado, respondent
pro se.

Per Curiam.

Respondent was admitted to practice by this Court in 1985.
He resides in Colorado.

By decisions in 1997 and 2004, respondent was suspended
from practice by this Court (Matter of Haas, 3 AD3d 732 [2004];
Matter of Haas, 239 AD2d 658 [1997]). He now applies for
reinstatement; two prior applications were denied (Matter of
Haas, 11 AD3d 877 [2004]; Matter of Haas, 308 AD2d 659 [2003]).
Consonant with petitioner's recommendation and this Court's

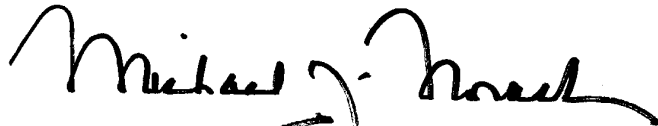
rules, we referred the application to the Committee on Character and Fitness (see 22 NYCRR 806.12 [b]). Three members of the Committee interviewed respondent and rendered a report recommending denial of the application at this time. The report expressed concerns about respondent's debts, his practice intentions, and his candor during the interview.

Upon our review of the application and the subcommittee's report, we conclude that respondent has not shown by clear and convincing evidence that he possesses the character and general fitness to resume the practice of law in this state (see 22 NYCRR 806.12 [b]). We therefore deny his application for reinstatement.

Cardona, P.J., Mercure, Spain, Rose and Lahtinen, JJ.,
concur.

ORDERED that respondent's application for reinstatement is denied.

ENTER:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Novack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Michael J. Novack
Clerk of the Court