
**REFORMATION FROM CRIMINAL TO LAWYER: IS SUCH REDEMPTION
POSSIBLE?**

M SLABBERT*

DJ BOOME**

SUMMARY

If a person with a criminal record were to apply for admission to the legal profession, the applicant would naturally harbour the hope that his or her application would succeed. However, in the absence of a reformation of his or her moral character, the certainty is that the application will fail, thus leading to disappointment. The aim of this article is to analyse the correctness of the above proposition. It is argued that a criminal record is not an insurmountable obstacle to a successful application for admission, but that such applications may succeed only in exceptional circumstances.

KEYWORDS: Admission; legal profession; fit and proper; criminal record; reformation; integrity; honesty; lawyer

* Magda Slabbert. BA (Hons) HED BProc LLB LLD (UFS). Professor Department of Jurisprudence University of South Africa. E-mail: slabbm@unisa.ac.za.

** The idea for this article came from a prisoner who is still incarcerated. He completed his LLB degree in prison.