

ORIGINAL

FILED

02/03/2026

Bowen Greenwood  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA

Case Number: PR 06-0544

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

PR 06-0544

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Bowen Greenwood  
Clerk of Supreme Court  
State of Montana

IN RE PETITION OF THOMAS BROOKSBANK  
FOR REINSTATEMENT TO ACTIVE STATUS  
IN THE BAR OF MONTANA

O R D E R

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Thomas Brooksbank has petitioned this Court for reinstatement to active status in the State Bar of Montana. According to the Petition, Petitioner was admitted to the State Bar of Montana on June 1, 1997, and was suspended in 2008 for nonpayment of dues. Section 4(e)(ii) of the By-Laws of the State Bar of Montana provides, “in the case of any lawyer whose membership dues or assessments are in arrears for a period of three or more consecutive years, no application for reinstatement may be granted unless ordered by the Montana Supreme Court.” Thus, Petitioner has petitioned the Court for reinstatement.

The Petition indicates Brooksbank has been suspended from practice in Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado “for failure to pay dues around the same time as Montana.” The Petition also indicates Brooksbank has been actively practicing law in Nevada since 1987 and is or has not been: 1) subject to disciplinary proceedings or pending disciplinary proceedings in another jurisdiction, 2) charged with a criminal offense, 3) accrued delinquent debt or filed for bankruptcy, 4) failed to fulfill the obligations of a public office or professional license, or 5) committed any violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct while on inactive status.

Our review of Court records indicates Brooksbank petitioned this Court for reinstatement to active status on August 8, 2019. The 2019 petition is nearly identical to the instant petition; however, the 2019 petition failed to mention Brooksbank’s suspension from practice in Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado, despite those suspensions occurring

around the same time as the Montana suspension. Based on the information in the 2019 petition, on August 13, 2019, this Court ordered Brooksbank to submit to an investigation by the Commission on Character and Fitness. Further, if Brooksbank was certified or conditionally certified by the Commission, Brooksbank was to be admitted to the active practice of law in Montana and was to complete thirty hours of approved Continuing Legal Education within six months of the date of certification.

The Petition does not acknowledge the extended amount of time—nearly eighteen years—since Petitioner’s initial suspension from practice, and offers no explanation regarding the 2019 petition and order from this Court, including whether Petitioner underwent a Character and Fitness investigation at that time, and the outcome of any such investigation. Consequently, the Petition must be denied at this time. Therefore,

IT IS ORDERED that the Petition is DENIED WITHOUT PREJUDICE to submission of a petition for reinstatement that provides additional background detail, including the status of the investigation, if any, ordered in 2019.

The Clerk is directed to provide copies of this order to the Petitioner and the State Bar of Montana.

DATED this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2026.

  
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Chief Justice

  
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*Joseph E. ...*

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Justices