

September 24, 1924.

Walter C. Douglas, Jr., Esq.,
Secretary State Board of Law Examiners,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Mr. Douglas:

I have received information to the effect that you have returned from your European trip. I am very glad to know that this is the case, and hope that you and your family had a very pleasant experience, which I have reason to think is a fact. I hope that all is well with you at the present.

You have probably received by this time, a petition addressed to the Board by an applicant for final admission whose name is Henry Ellenbogen, who is petitioning for a waiver of the new rule requiring applicants for admission to the Bar to be citizens of the United States. He has given me a copy of the petition, which he said he was filing with you, and also a copy of the brief which he has prepared to support his petition. He has called to see me a number of times about this ~~xxx~~ matter, and I have made some personal inquiry about the young man. Judge Wasson has done the same, and we have had some conference about it. I think both Judge Wasson and myself agree that so far as his personality is concerned, this young man makes a very good impression. He is a Jew, but he is of the best type of Jews. Without a doubt, he is a fine student and a highly intellectual young man, and he seems to be very gentlemanly in his manner and behavior. A number of persons who have known him in connection with his life as student here say these things ~~about~~ of him, and he seems to be very well liked and thoroughly approved by the teachers of the Duquesne ~~xxxx~~ Law School and by members of his class in that school. I have not been able to get any further than this, with respect to his personal character.

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I have told him that so far as my personal views are concerned, I am very much in favor of the enforcement of the new rule in question, and think it only a very reasonable requirement, that a man who is seeking the favor of membership in the Bar of this State, should be a citizen of the state and of the United States. I think the sentiment of the Bar of the state and of the county favors this position much more than was probable the case before the War.

I did not tell him, however, what I think myself with respect to himself, which is that if any exception is to be made to the strict enforcement of the rule, it seems to me that probably this young man is a case entitled to the benefit of the exception. He seems to be exceptionally well qualified, and not at all of the common class of Jewish lawyers, who are generally regarded as objectionable.

I would like to know what grade this man made on his examinations. I am inclined to think that probably he passed very high. If you will favor me with a reply and give me the grade which appears on his papers, I will be obliged to you.

With kind regards to yourself, Mrs. Douglas and family, and glad to think that you are back in U. S. A., I am

Yours very truly,
[Signature]

TB/JM