

# Supreme Court of Colorado

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*In the Matter of the Application of*

MINORU YASUI

---

2215 South Columbine, Denver, Colo.

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*for ADMISSION TO THE BAR.*

*Passed* June, 1945 *Exam.*

*Approved* January 10, 1946

*Oath Administered* January 14, 1946

*License Fee Paid* " " "

*License Granted* " " "

# In The Supreme Court of the State of Colorado

I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR by the Everliving God: that,

I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Colorado;

I will maintain the respect due to Courts of Justice and judicial officers;

I will not counsel or maintain any suit or proceeding which shall appear to me to be unjust, nor any defense except such as I believe to be honestly debatable under the law of the land;

I will employ for the purpose of maintaining the causes confided to me such means only as are consistent with truth and honor, and will never seek to mislead the Judge or jury by any artifice or false statement of fact or law;

I will maintain the confidence and preserve inviolate the secrets of my client, and will accept no compensation in connection with his business except from him or with his knowledge or approval;

I will abstain from all offensive personality, and advance no fact prejudicial to the honor or reputation of a party or witness, unless required by the justice of the cause with which I am charged;

I will never reject, from any consideration personal to myself, the cause of the defenseless or oppressed, or delay any man's cause for lucre or malice.

*Minion Gami*

Subscribed and sworn to before me this Fourteenth

day of January A. D. 1946

*William P. Thomas*

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, State of Colorado.



IN THE

# SUPREME COURT

OF THE

STATE OF COLORADO

*admitted*  
**FILED IN THE  
SUPREME COURT  
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO**

JAN 9 - 1946

In the Matter of the Application of

MINORU YASUI

For Admission to the Bar.

*O. E. Riskerson*  
**CERTIFICATE OF BAR COMMITTEE CLERK**

TO THE HONORABLE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF COLORADO.

Gentlemen: The undersigned members of your Bar Committee do respectfully certify that we have considered the proofs submitted of the ethical and moral qualifications and have inquired into the character of MINORU YASUI, applicant for admission to the Bar of the Supreme Court of the State of Colorado; that said applicant has been personally interviewed by at least one of the undersigned and that we find said applicant is.....properly qualified for such admission.

Dated, Denver, Colorado, Jan 9, 1946

*Wm E. Fulton*  
*R. H. Walker*  
*Wm E. Fulton*

LAW OFFICES

KELLY AND SNYDER

FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

GREELEY, COLORADO

WILLIAM R. KELLY  
E TYNDALL SNYDER

January 7, 1946

William E. Hutton  
Attorney at Law  
Hutton, McCay, Nordlund & Pierce  
Capitol Life Building  
Denver, Colorado

Dear Mr. Hutton:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 2 concerning the Bar Committee meeting.

I regret very much that I will be unable to attend.

In connection with the Yasui case, I have reached the conclusion, after going over the later letter which was received in connection with the matter, that I would change my position and would vote for the admission of Mr. Yasui.

Very truly yours,

KELLY AND SNYDER

*E. Tyndall Snyder*  
E. TYNDALL SNYDER

ETS:CA



COLORADO STATE BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

214 STATE CAPITOL

DENVER 2, COLORADO

November 28, 1945.

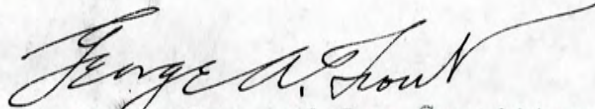
Mr. William E. Hutton, Chairman,  
The Bar Committee, Colorado Supreme Court,  
Denver, Colorado.

Dear Mr. Hutton:

I hand you the file concerning the application of  
Mr. Minoru Yasui for admission to the Colorado bar as  
a class C candidate.

The court has requested the bar committee, pro-  
ceeding in the light of the letter from the Honorable  
Wayne Morse, United States Senator from Oregon, dated  
October 23, 1945, and addressed to Mr. Justice Jackson,  
and the fact that the war with Japan is over, reconsider  
this application and make such recommendation to the  
court as it may deem proper in the premises.

Yours very truly,



Secretary, Law and Bar Committees,  
Colorado Supreme Court.

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DAVID I. WALSH, MASS., CHAIRMAN  
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LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, MASS.  
WAYNE MORSE, OREG.

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS

M. E. GALLAGHER, CLERK

October 23, 1945

Hon. William S. Jackson,  
Justice of the Supreme Court,  
State of Colorado,  
Denver 2, Colorado.

Dear Justice Jackson:

In reply to your letter of October 11, which has just reached my attention, I am pleased to give you the following information about Mr. Minoru Yasui.

On June 16, 1945, I wrote a "To Whom It May Concern" letter about Mr. Yasui, a copy of which I enclose herewith. That letter was written in response to a letter which Mr. Yasui sent to me under date of April 25. However, unfortunately his letter unintentionally was overlooked in my office for several weeks, as a result of which I didn't get around to answering it until June 16. I presume that Mr. Yasui received it too late for submission to the Board of Admissions to the Colorado Bar along with his other papers.

I do not propose to advise the Colorado Supreme Court as to what action I think it should take in the Yasui case because I am sure the Court is in possession of a rather complete file on Mr. Yasui. I have not followed his record sufficiently to justify my passing a value judgment upon the question pending before the court. Needless to say I was not pleased with the action which Mr. Yasui took in connection with the curfew law case. However, I would be less than honest if I failed to say that I was never convinced that Yasui's conduct in that case was motivated by views of disloyalty to this government. I think he used exceptionally poor judgment about the whole affair. In fact I recall that when he was in jail in Portland he wrote to me and I expressed to him my thorough disapproval of the action which he had taken. My own feeling is that Yasui felt that the action taken against the Japanese on the West Coast was too drastic and I suspect, as a young lawyer, he saw in the case what he thought was a chance to make a name for himself as a lawyer among his potential Japanese clientele.

As you probably know, at least one of his brothers has been serving in the United States Army during the war and I believe was with the Military Intelligence forces in the Pacific. Minoru Yasui himself



was an officer in the R.O.T.C. at the University of Oregon and I am inclined to believe that his various offers, which I understand he made, to serve in the United States Army during the war were made in good faith and constituted a manifestation on his part to make up somewhat for the bad mistake in judgment he made in connection with the curfew case.

I am not familiar with what the record of the curfew case shows in regard to testimony to the effect that Yasui consulted with me before he accepted a position at the Japanese Consulate in Chicago prior to Pearl Harbor. I have been intending to look into that testimony because someone else mentioned it to me quite sometime ago. However, I do have a faint recollection that Yasui talked to me after his graduation from law school about where he should practice law. As I remember, I told him that I thought his best opportunity probably would be in San Francisco or Los Angeles which cities, I understood, had the largest concentration of American citizens of the Japanese race. I pointed out to him that I thought he should try to build up a clientele among the American citizens of his own race because I felt that he would have a better chance of developing a good practice if he made contacts with the American-Japanese groups. I gave similar advice to a Chinese boy who graduated from the law school in regard to Chinese groups.

I also recall that Yasui mentioned that he had been approached by the Japanese Consul in regard to a position with the Consulate. I am not clear as to which Consulate it was but as I recall it it was the Consulate in Portland although it may have been the Consulate in Chicago. It is my recollection that I told Yasui that he should certainly investigate the possibility of the job with the Consulate because it might give him some very valuable business contacts with Japanese exporters and importers which undoubtedly would prove valuable to him in building up a private law practice. I am sure I also mentioned to Yasui that a job with the Japanese Consulate might give him an opportunity to impress upon the Consulate the American point of view in connection with American-Japanese relations. In those days there was a widespread discussion throughout this country about the desirability of improving American-Japanese relations and I know that as a student Yasui seemed to be very much concerned about the apparent war trends that colored Japanese policies. For example, in the late thirties I spoke out against the shipping of scrap iron to Japan for which I was roundly criticized in some quarters. In fact some forces of the state seemed to think I should be dismissed from the University because of my opposition to shipping scrap iron to Japan. I recall that Yasui told me that he agreed with my position on the issue and said that he feared the military officials in Japan were dominating the business leaders.



October 23, 1945

There was another boy at the University of Oregon, by the name of Wilson, who later worked for the Japanese Consulate in Portland and then was transferred to the Washington Embassy. I remember that at about the same time Yasui talked to me Wilson also talked to me about his job problems and I told him that I thought it would be a very much worth-while experience. I haven't seen Mr. Wilson since but know that he took the job and was with the Japanese Embassy at the time of Pearl Harbor and thereafter because of his knowledge as to what went on in the Embassy I think he was of great value to our government. Personally, I don't think either one of these boys, either Wilson or Yasui, made any mistake in accepting a position with the Japanese Consulate and I, for one, would not draw any inference one way or another from the fact that Yasui accepted a position with the Japanese Consul. If there is any evidence that while in the employ of the Consulate Yasui committed any acts of disloyalty to this country then that would be a different matter but as far as I know his work with the Consulate was in a very subordinate position handling routine administrative matters including correspondence.

If you have any further specific questions you would like to ask me I shall be glad to answer them.

Sincerely yours,

Wayne Morse

WM:GC



June 16, 1945

To Whom It May Concern:

I hereby certify that Mr. Minoru Yasui graduated from the University of Oregon with honors. He is also a graduate of the University of Oregon Law School in the Class of 1939. Mr. Yasui was elected to the honorary scholastic fraternity, Phi Beta Kappa. Although his scholastic record in the Law School wasn't as good as the one he made in the Academic College, he nevertheless fulfilled all of the scholastic requirements for graduation and was granted a degree in June 1939.

After graduation, Mr. Yasui passed the Oregon State Bar examination and was admitted to the Oregon Bar. As the records show, shortly after the outbreak of the war between the United States and Japan, Mr. Yasui was charged with violating the so-called security curfew law and was convicted of that violation in the Federal District Court of Portland and was sentenced accordingly.

I understand that Mr. Yasui is now seeking admission to the Colorado State Bar. He knows that I thoroughly disapprove of his conduct and the procedure he adopted in testing the validity of the curfew law. If I were a member of the Board of Admissions of the Colorado State Bar, I would give him a fair hearing and then, upon the basis of his entire record, reach such a decision as the record would seem to merit.

Yours respectfully,

WM:dc

/s/ Wayne Morse

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**SUPREME COURT**  
OF THE  
STATE OF COLORADO

In the Matter of the Application of  
MINORU YASUI } **CERTIFICATE OF BAR COMMITTEE**  
For Admission to the Bar.

TO THE HONORABLE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF COLORADO.

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Dated, Denver, Colorado, <sup>August</sup> ~~June~~ 20 24, 19 45.

Wm E. Fulton

A. J. Vogl

E. T. Singer

State