IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF SHRABAN	*	
KHANAL ON BEHALF OF	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
SK INDUSTRIES, LLC T/A	*	
JUDGE'S BENCH FOR A	*	FOR
TRANSFER OF A CLASS D	*	
BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
7-DAY ON/OFF SALE LICENSE	*	
	*	Case No.: 26-32
	*	

* *

DECISION AND ORDER

The Board of License Commissioners for Howard County, Maryland (the "Liquor Board"), pursuant to Rule 1.02(A) of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations, has delegated the authority to hear and decide cases to the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board for Howard County, Maryland (the "Hearing Board").

On October 13, 2026, the Hearing Board heard the application of Shraban Khanal (the "Applicant"), on behalf of SK Industries, LLC t/a Judge's Bench ("Judge's Bench"), for a transfer of a Class D Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day on/off sale License for a 2,600 sq. ft. tavern with a 505 sq. ft. patio located at 8385 Main Street, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

The hearing was properly advertised, and the property posted pursuant to the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Applicant was represented by Evan J. Feldman, Esquire and there were no protestants who appeared in opposition to the application.

All the documents on file were incorporated into the record by reference.

PROFFER

Mr. Feldman proffered that Judge's Bench has been in operation since 1978 and that the current licensees have owned it since 2007. Mr. Feldman stated that the business is known for its

rotating craft beer taps and extensive whiskey selection. Mr. Feldman stated that the hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m., Saturday from 2:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. Mr. Feldman stated that the third floor is a cocktail club with a more intimate vibe offering a more upscale menu. Mr. Feldman stated that Mr. Khanal is under contract to purchase the restaurant and its operating assets with closing expected to occur around December 1, 2026, pending approval of the liquor license transfer and conditions. Mr. Feldman stated that Mr. Khanal is a resident of Baltimore County, and that the application incorrectly states that he is a resident of Howard County. Mr. Feldman stated that Mr. Khanal has never held a liquor license and that he has no criminal convictions, alcohol violations, traffic or civil citations. Mr. Feldman stated that Mr. Khanal is ServSafe Alcohol Certified and that he has worked at Royal Spice in Linthicum, which is a restaurant owned by his family.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

Shraban Khanal, 100% interest holder and proposed resident agent, was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Mr. Khanal testified that he is a resident of Baltimore County and that there have been no further changes to his liquor license application. Mr. Khanal stated that the restaurant is currently open and operating and that he is employed as an accounting manager at a private equity firm. Mr. Khanal stated that he works remotely so he will be able to work at the restaurant from 4:00 p.m. until closing. Mr. Khanal stated that he will be involved in the day to day operations, that a few employees will be trained as managers, and that they are all Alcohol Awareness Certified. Mr. Khanal stated that he will retain the existing staff, and that alcohol sales are about 80% of the total gross sales. Mr. Khanal stated that there are about 7 employees, that he is familiar with the Howard County Liquor Board Rules and Regulations, and that he is unaware of any pending violations

against the establishment. Mr. Khanal stated that he will be a good corporate citizen by sponsoring local football teams in Howard County. Mr. Khanal stated that he previously worked at his family's restaurant where he hired staff and implemented procedures, and that he will incorporate those skills into operating Judge's Bench. Mr. Khanal stated that he is in contact with the current owners, that they are not staying on but that they are training him, and that they are available for any assistance during the transition. Mr. Khanal stated that he lives 12 minutes away from the business and that he wants to own the tavern to get out of the corporate world and give back to the community.

Pursuant to Rule 6.13 of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations, the Applicant waived his right to request the Liquor Board to hear the case.

Based on the evidence presented at the hearing, the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Hearing Board finds that Shraban Khanal (the "Applicant"), on behalf of SK Industries, LLC t/a Judge's Bench ("Judge's Bench"), has applied for a transfer of a Class D Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day on/off sale License for a 2,600 sq. ft. tavern with a 505 sq. ft. patio located at 8385 Main Street, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

2. The Hearing Board finds that the Applicant is a fit and proper person to hold an alcoholic beverage license.

3. The Hearing Board finds that Shraban Khanal, the resident agent applicant, meets the requirements of Rules 1.10(S), 1.10(T), and 2.06 of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations concerning resident agent qualifications.

4. The Hearing Board finds that the granting of the application is necessary for the

accommodation of the public.

5. The Hearing Board finds that the granting of the application will not unduly disturb the peace and safety of the residents of the neighborhood.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Hearing Board concludes that Shraban Khanal (the "Applicant"), on behalf of SK Industries, LLC t/a Judge's Bench ("Judge's Bench"), has applied for a transfer of a Class D Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day on/off sale License for a 2,600 sq. ft. tavern with a 505 sq. ft. patio located at 8385 Main Street, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

2. The Hearing Board concludes that the Applicant is a fit and proper person to hold an alcoholic beverage license.

3. The Hearing Board concludes that Shraban Khanal, the resident agent applicant, meets the requirements of Rules 1.10(S), 1.10(T), and 2.06 of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations concerning resident agent qualifications.

4. The Hearing Board concludes that the granting of the application is necessary for the accommodation of the public.

5. The Hearing Board concludes that the granting of the application will not unduly disturb the peace and safety of the residents of the neighborhood.

ORDER

For the foregoing reasons, it is this 18th day of November, 2026, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED** that the application of Shraban Khanal (the "Applicant"), on behalf of SK Industries, LLC t/a Judge's Bench ("Judge's Bench"), for a transfer of a Class D Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day on/off sale License for a 2,600 sq. ft. tavern with a 505 sq. ft. patio located at 8385 Main Street, Ellicott City, MD 21043, be and the

same is hereby **GRANTED,** subject to the following conditions:

(a) That the Applicant comply with all State and County laws and regulations;

(b) That the Applicant satisfy any requirements necessary to obtain the license by April 13, 2027 unless that deadline is extended by the Hearing Board upon good cause shown; and

(c) Failure to comply with these conditions shall render this Proposed Decision and Order null and void.

ATTEST:

Kel Berg
Kel Berg
Board Administrator

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD OF HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

/S/
Steven Chen, Chairperson

/S/
Steve Hunt, Vice-Chairperson

REVIEWED BY HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF LAW
GARY W. KUC
COUNTY SOLICITOR

/S/
Ed Coleman, Member

Hyunjae Shin, Esquire
Senior Assistant County Solicitor

ABSENT
Beth Johnson, Member

/S/
Claire Kim, Member