

**SUPREME COURT OF OHIO**

**COLUMBUS**

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

FRIDAY

September 10, 1999

**DISCIPLINARY DOCKET**

**DD 84-20. Disciplinary Counsel v. Rothermel.**

On Application for Reinstatement. Christian D. Rothermel is reinstated to the practice of law, effective September 9, 1999.

Moyer, C.J., Douglas, Resnick, F.E. Sweeney, Pfeifer, Cook and Lundberg Stratton, JJ., concur.

**97-2648. Cuyahoga Cty. Bar Assn. v. Okocha.**

On July 30, 1999, this court found respondent in contempt for failure to comply with this court's August 12, 1998 order of disbarment, to wit, failure to file an affidavit of compliance and surrender his certificate of admission on or before September 11, 1998, and failure to pay board costs on or before November 10, 1998. It has come to the attention of this court that respondent surrendered his certificate of admission on July 8, 1994, in *Cleveland Bar Association and Cuyahoga Bar Association v. Nwabueze Okocha*, Supreme Court case No. 93-2102. Upon consideration thereof,

IT IS ORDERED by this court, *sua sponte*, effective September 9, 1999, that this court's order of July 30, 1999, in Supreme Court case No. 97-2648, be modified to the extent that respondent be, and hereby is, found in contempt for failure to pay board costs on or before November 10, 1998.

**99-807. Toledo Bar Assn. v. Zerner.**

On July 19, 1999, the parties filed a joint stipulation for an order placing respondent's Exhibit H under seal. Upon consideration thereof,

IT IS ORDERED by this court, effective September 9, 1999, that the stipulation be, and is hereby, granted, and respondent's Exhibit H will be maintained under seal by the Clerk's Office of this court.

Resnick, J., not participating.

**99-878. In re Resignation of Johnston.**

On affidavit of resignation from practice of law and report filed under seal by Disciplinary Counsel. The resignation of Ross Leroy Johnston as an attorney, Attorney Registration No. 0016405, is accepted, effective September 9, 1999.

Lundberg Stratton, J., dissents and would not accept the resignation because a disciplinary proceeding is pending.

**99-1063. In re Resignation of Cohen.**

On affidavit of resignation from practice of law and report filed under seal by Disciplinary Counsel. The resignation of Alan Bruce Cohen as an attorney, Attorney Registration No. 0037581, is accepted, effective September 9, 1999.

**99-1638. In re Goldberg.**

On September 2, 1999, and pursuant to Gov.Bar R. V(5a)(A)(1)(b), relator, Disciplinary Counsel, filed with this court a motion for interim suspension pursuant to Gov.Bar R. V(5a), and requested that the court review the matter immediately pursuant to S.Ct. Prac.R. XIV(4)(C). On September 3, 1999, respondent, Richard D. Goldberg, a.k.a. Richard Dennis Goldberg, filed a memorandum in opposition to relator's motion.

Upon consideration thereof and pursuant to Gov.Bar R. V(5a)(B), it is ordered and decreed that an interim remedial suspension be immediately entered against Richard D. Goldberg, a.k.a. Richard Dennis Goldberg, Attorney Registration No. 0005748, last known address in Canfield, Ohio, and that the suspension be effective as of the date of this entry, pending final disposition of disciplinary proceedings predicated on the conduct threatening the serious harm.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Richard D. Goldberg, a.k.a. Richard Dennis Goldberg, immediately cease and desist from the practice of law in any form and is hereby forbidden to appear on behalf of another before any court, judge, commission, board, administrative agency, or other public authority.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, effective immediately, he be forbidden to counsel or advise, or prepare legal instruments for others or in any manner perform legal services for others.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that he is hereby divested of each, any, and all of the rights, privileges, and prerogatives customarily accorded to a member in good standing of the legal profession of Ohio.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to Gov.Bar R. X(3)(G), respondent shall complete one credit hour of continuing legal education for each month, or portion of a month of the suspension. As part of the total credit hours of continuing legal education required by Gov.Bar R. X(3)(G), respondent shall complete one credit hour of instruction related to professional conduct required by Gov.Bar R. X(3)(A)(1), for each six months, or portion of six months, of the suspension.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that respondent shall not be reinstated to the practice of law in Ohio until (1) respondent complies with the requirements for reinstatement set forth in the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio; (2) respondent complies with this and all other orders issued by this court; (3) respondent complies with the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio; and (4) this court orders respondent reinstated.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, *sua sponte*, by the court, that within ninety days of the date of this order, respondent shall reimburse any amounts that have been awarded by the Clients' Security Fund pursuant to Gov.Bar R. VIII(7)(F). It is further ordered, *sua sponte*, by the court that if, after the date of this order, the Clients' Security Fund awards any amount against the respondent pursuant to Gov.Bar R. VIII(7)(F), the respondent shall reimburse that amount to the Clients' Security Fund within ninety days of the notice of such award.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that on or before thirty days from the date of this order, respondent shall:

1. Notify all clients being represented in pending matters and any co-counsel of his suspension and his consequent disqualification to act as an attorney after the effective date of this order and, in the absence of co-counsel, also notify the clients to seek legal service elsewhere, calling attention to any urgency in seeking the substitution of another attorney in his place;

2. Regardless of any fees or expenses due him, deliver to all clients being represented in pending matters any papers or other property pertaining to the client, or notify the clients or co-counsel, if any, of a suitable time and place where the papers or other property may be obtained, calling attention to any urgency for obtaining such papers or other property;

3. Refund any part of any fees or expenses paid in advance that are unearned or not paid, and account for any trust money or property in his possession or control;

4. Notify opposing counsel in pending litigation or, in the absence of counsel, the adverse parties of his disqualification to act as an attorney after the effective date of this order, and file a notice of disqualification of respondent with the court or agency before which the litigation is pending for inclusion in the respective file or files;

5. Send all such notices required by this order by certified mail with a return address where communications may thereafter be directed to respondent;

6. File with the Clerk of this court and the Disciplinary Counsel of the Supreme Court an affidavit showing compliance with this order, showing proof of service of notices required herein, and setting forth the address where the affiant may receive communications; and

7. Retain and maintain a record of the various steps taken by respondent pursuant to this order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that respondent shall keep the Clerk and the Disciplinary Counsel advised of any change of address where respondent may receive communications.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, *sua sponte*, that all documents filed with this court in this case shall meet the filing requirements set forth in the Rules of Practice of the Supreme Court of Ohio, including requirements as to form, number, and timeliness of filings.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, *sua sponte*, that service shall be deemed made on respondent by sending this order, and all other orders in this case, by certified mail to the most recent address respondent has given to the Attorney Registration Office.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of this court issue certified copies of this order as provided for in Gov.Bar R. V(8)(D)(1), that publication be made as provided for in Gov.Bar R. V(8)(D)(2), and that respondent bear the costs of publication.

Pfeifer, J., would decide this motion in the court's conference on September 14, 1999.