

The Supreme Court of Ohio

CASE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

February 10, 2004

APPEALS ACCEPTED FOR REVIEW

2003-2220. In re Holmes.

Hamilton App. No. C-030441.

Resnick, F.E. Sweeney and O'Donnell, JJ., dissent.

DISCIPLINARY CASES

2003-1678. In re Resignation of Warren.

On affidavit of resignation from the practice of law of Billie L. Warren, Attorney Registration No. 0030586, and report filed under seal by Disciplinary Counsel. Resignation accepted with disciplinary action pending.

2003-1724. In re Resignation of Albert.

On affidavit of resignation from the practice of law of Craig Steven Albert, Attorney Registration No. 0020549, and report filed under seal by Disciplinary Counsel. Resignation accepted.

2003-1808. Stark Cty. Bar Assn. v. Watterson.

On January 20, 2004, respondent filed a motion for leave to file a reply brief in support of respondent's objections. Whereas there are no provisions in Gov.Bar R. V for filing a reply brief,

IT IS ORDERED by the court that the motion for leave to file a reply brief in support of respondent's objections be, and hereby is, denied.

2003-2130. In re Resignation of Easa.

On affidavit of resignation from the practice of law of James Easa, Attorney Registration No. 0036917, report filed under seal by Disciplinary Counsel. Resignation accepted.

2004-0024. In re DiGiantonio.

On January 5, 2004, and pursuant to Gov.Bar R. V(5)(A)(3), the Secretary of the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline of the Supreme Court certified to the Supreme Court a certified copy of a judgment entry of a felony conviction against Edward A. DiGiantonio, an attorney licensed to practice law in the state of Ohio.

Upon consideration thereof and pursuant to Gov.Bar R. V(5)(A)(4), it is ordered and decreed that Edward A. DiGiantonio, Attorney Registration No. 0014358, last known business address in Akron, Ohio, be, and hereby is, suspended from the practice of law for an interim period, effective as of the date of this entry.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this matter be, and is hereby, referred to the Akron Bar Association for investigation and commencement of disciplinary proceedings.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that respondent 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, respondent 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 respondent 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 90 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 90 days of the notice of such award.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that on or before 30 days from the date of this order, respondent shall:

1. Notify all clients being represented in pending matters and any co-counsel of respondent's suspension and 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 respondent's place;

2. Regardless of any fees or expenses due respondent, 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 respondent's possession or control;

4. Notify opposing counsel in pending litigation or, in the absence of counsel, the adverse parties of respondent's 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, the Akron Bar Association, 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 Section.

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.

2004-0065. Disciplinary Counsel v. Jaffe.

On January 27, 2004, the parties filed a joint motion to correct the certified report of the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline. Upon consideration thereof,

IT IS ORDERED by the court that the motion be, and hereby is, granted. It is further ordered that the sentence, “No offer of settlement was made by the Defendant” appearing on page 5 of the certified report under Discussion of Count III, be, and hereby is, stricken.

MISCELLANEOUS ORDERS

2003-1367. In re Application of Aboyade.

This cause came before the court upon the filing of a report in the Office of the Clerk of this court by the Board of Commissioners on Character and Fitness.

IT IS ORDERED by the court, sua sponte, that this cause be remanded to the Board of Commissioners on Character and Fitness to supplement its statement of facts and procedural background.