

# The Supreme Court of Ohio

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## CASE ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 13, 2008

[Cite as *08/13/2008 Case Announcements*, 2008-Ohio-4071.]

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## MERIT DECISIONS WITH OPINIONS

**2007-0996. VIL Laser Sys., L.L.C. v. Shiloh Industries, Inc., Slip Opinion No. 2008-Ohio-3920.**

Shelby App. No. 17-07-02. Judgment reversed and cause remanded.

Moyer, C.J., and Lundberg Stratton, O'Connor, O'Donnell, and Lanzinger, JJ., concur.

Pfeifer and Cupp, JJ., dissent.

**2007-1199, 2007-1372, and 2007-1373. LaNeve v. Atlas Recycling, Inc., Slip Opinion No. 2008-Ohio-3921.**

Trumbull App. No. 2006-T-0032, 172 Ohio App.3d 44, 2007-Ohio-2856. Certified question answered and judgment reversed.

Moyer, C.J., and Lundberg Stratton, O'Connor, O'Donnell, Lanzinger, and Cupp, JJ., concur.

Pfeifer, J., dissents.

**2007-1440. State ex rel. Bercaw v. Sunnybreeze Health Care Corp., Slip Opinion No. 2008-Ohio-3922.**

Franklin App. No. 06AP-891, 2007-Ohio-3519. Judgment affirmed.

Moyer, C.J., and Pfeifer, Lundberg Stratton, O'Connor, O'Donnell, Lanzinger, and Cupp, JJ., concur.

**2008-0038. Disciplinary Counsel v. Maley, Slip Opinion No. 2008-Ohio-3923.**

On Certified Report by the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline, No. 06-092. Lawrence M. Maley, Attorney Registration No. 0055448, is

suspended from the practice of law in Ohio for 18 months, with six months stayed on conditions.

Moyer, C.J., and Pfeifer, Lundberg Stratton, O'Connor, O'Donnell, Lanzinger, and Cupp, JJ., concur.

**2008-0395. Disciplinary Counsel v. Freeman, Slip Opinion No. 2008-Ohio-3836.**

On Certified Report by the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline, No. 07-023. Henry R. Freeman, Attorney Registration No. 0022713, is suspended from the practice of law in Ohio for one year, with six months stayed on conditions.

Moyer, C.J., and Lundberg Stratton, O'Connor, Lanzinger, and Cupp, JJ., concur.

Pfeifer and O'Donnell, JJ., dissent and would suspend respondent for one year, all stayed.

## **DISCIPLINARY CASES**

**2007-1581. Cleveland Bar Assn. v. Mitchell.**

On April 23, 2008, this court suspended respondent for a period of 18 months with the last 12 months stayed on conditions and ordered her to pay board costs in the amount of \$11,654.73. On July 24, 2008, respondent filed a motion to enlarge the time to pay costs of proceedings. Upon consideration thereof,

It is ordered by this court that the motion is denied.

**2008-1183. In re Niles.**

On June 18, 2008, 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 of Ohio certified to the Supreme Court a certified copy of a judgment entry of a felony conviction against Lisa Jane Niles, 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 Lisa Jane Niles, Attorney Registration No. 0061134, last known address in Springfield, Ohio, 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 is referred to the Disciplinary Counsel 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 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 is 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 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, 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 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 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 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 Office of Attorney Services.

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.

**2008-1247. In re Carter.**

On June 26, 2008, 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 of Ohio certified to the Supreme Court a certified copy of a judgment entry of a felony conviction against Cornell Phillip Carter, 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 Cornell Phillip Carter, Attorney Registration No.

0062986, last known business address in Fairlawn, Ohio, 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 is 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 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 is 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 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, 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 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 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 Office of Attorney Services.

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.

## **MISCELLANEOUS DISMISSALS**

**2008-1023. State ex rel. Finucan v. Indus. Comm.**

Franklin App. No. 07AP-391, 2008-Ohio-1836. This cause is pending before the court as an appeal from the Court of Appeals for Franklin County. Upon consideration of the joint application for dismissal,

It is ordered by the court that the application for dismissal is granted. Accordingly, this cause is dismissed.

**MEDIATION REFERRALS**

The following case has been returned to the regular docket pursuant to S.Ct.Prac.R. XIV(6)(E):

**2008-0430. State ex rel. Feltner v. HMDC, Inc.**

Franklin App. 07AP-180, 2008-Ohio-467.