Case No. 06-1197

Disciplinary Counsel,
Relator,
v.
Bryan Bright Johnson,
Respondent.

ON CERTIFIED REPORT BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON GRIEVANCES AND DISCIPLINE OF THE SUPREME COURT

ORDER

The Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline filed its Final Report in this court on June 21, 2006, recommending that pursuant to Rule V(6)(B)(5) of the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio the respondent, Bryan Bright Johnson, be publicly reprimanded. Respondent and relator filed objections to said Final Report, relator and respondent filed answers, and this cause was considered by the court. On consideration thereof,

It is ordered and adjudged by this court that pursuant to Gov.Bar R. V(6)(B)(3) and consistent with the opinion rendered herein, respondent, Bryan Bright Johnson, Attorney Registration Number 0003981, last known business address in Columbus, Ohio, be suspended from the practice of law for a period of one year with the last six months of the suspension stayed. To ensure that respondent returns to the ethical practice of law, it is further ordered that respondent serve a six-month probationary period. It is further ordered that during the probation period, in addition to the requirements of Gov.Bar R. V(9), respondent shall advise any probate court in which he practices that he has been disciplined for excessive fee applications. It is further ordered that if respondent fails to comply with this condition, the stay shall be lifted, and respondent shall serve the entire one-year suspension. It is further ordered that, as a condition of reinstatement, respondent must file proof that he has paid $50,000 in restitution to the probate court for disbursement as assets of Bryan and Lauder.

It is further ordered that the 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 respondent is hereby forbidden to counsel or advise or prepare legal instruments for others or in any manner perform such services.

It is further ordered that the 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 respondent be taxed the costs of these proceedings in the amount of Five Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Four Dollars and Nine Cents ($5,544.09), which costs shall be payable to this court by certified check or money order on or before 90 days from the date of this order. It is further ordered that if these costs are not paid in full on or before 90 days from the date of this order, interest at the rate of 10% per annum shall accrue as of 90 days from the date of this order, on the balance of unpaid Board costs. It is further ordered that respondent may not apply for reinstatement until such time as respondent pays costs in full, including any accrued interest.

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 against the respondent 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 and placed on probation for a period of six months until (1) respondent files proof of restitution; (2) respondent complies with the requirements for reinstatement set forth in the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio; (3) respondent complies with the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio; (4) respondent complies with this and all other orders of the court; and (5) 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 the possession or control of respondent;

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 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 respondent 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 on or before 30 days from the date of this order, respondent surrender the attorney registration card for the 2005/2007 biennium.

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 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.

THOMAS J. MOYER
Chief Justice