

The Supreme Court of Ohio

MAY 17 2012

Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association,
Relator,
v.
Robert J. Berk,
Respondent.

Case No. 2011-1049

CLERK OF COURT
SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

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 22, 2011, recommending that pursuant to Rule V(6)(B)(3) of the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio respondent, Robert J. Berk, be suspended from the practice of law for a period of eighteen months, with twelve months stayed, followed by a two-year monitored probation. Respondent filed objections to said final report, relator filed an answer, oral argument was held and this cause was then 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, Robert J. Berk, Attorney Registration Number 0001031, last known business address in Cleveland, Ohio, is suspended from the practice of law for a period of eighteen months with the entire suspension stayed on the conditions that respondent: (1) commit no further misconduct; and (2) serve a two-year term of monitored probation in accordance with Gov.Bar R.V(9)(D) with an experienced monitor who is familiar with the disciplinary system and law-office management. It is further ordered that if respondent fails to comply with the conditions of the stay, the stay shall be lifted, and respondent shall serve the full eighteen month suspension.

It is further ordered that on or before 30 days from the date of this order, relator shall file the name of an attorney who will monitor respondent during the probation. It is further ordered that at the end of the probationary period, relator file a report with this court indicating whether respondent has complied with the terms of probation including monitoring.

It is further ordered that respondent be taxed the costs of these proceedings in the amount of \$2,398.97, which costs shall be payable to this court by cashier's 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 and the matter may be referred to the Attorney General for collection. Respondent may be held in contempt and suspended until costs, and all accrued interest, are paid in full.

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 respondent by the Clients' Security Fund pursuant to Gov.Bar R. VIII(7)(F). It is further ordered, sua

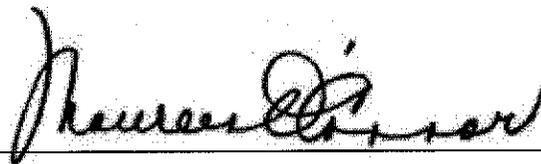
sponte, by the court that if, after the date of this order, the Clients' Security Fund awards any amount against respondent pursuant to Gov.Bar R. VIII(7)(F), respondent shall reimburse that amount to the Clients' Security Fund within 90 days of the notice of such award.

It is further ordered that at the end of the probationary period respondent may apply for termination of probation. It is further ordered that respondent's probation will not be terminated until: (1) respondent files an application for termination of probation in accordance with Gov.Bar R. V(9)(D); (2) relator files a report with the clerk of the Supreme Court indicating that respondent has complied with the terms and conditions of probation during the probationary period; (3) respondent complies with this order and all other orders issued by this court; (4) respondent complies with the Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio; and (5) this court issues an order terminating respondent's probation.

It is further ordered that respondent shall keep the clerk, the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, and the Disciplinary Counsel advised of any change of address where respondent may receive communications.

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, to respondent's last known address.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maureen O'Connor", written over a horizontal line.

Maureen O'Connor
Chief Justice