

FILED

The Supreme Court of Ohio

MAY 07 2014

Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association,
Relator,
v.
Derek Wooten and Aaron, Derek, Carter & Stein,
LLC,
Respondents.



ON REPORT OF THE BOARD ON THE
UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW
CLERK OF COURT
SUPREME COURT OF OHIO
Case No. 2013-1353

ORDER

The Board on the Unauthorized Practice of Law filed its final report in this court on August 22, 2013, recommending that pursuant to Gov.Bar R. VII, the Supreme Court of Ohio issue an order (1) finding that respondents, Derek Wooten and Aaron, Derek, Carter & Stein, LLC, have engaged in the unauthorized practice of law, (2) prohibiting respondents from engaging in the unauthorized practice of law in the future, (3) requiring respondents to notify their clients that they are not authorized to file complaints for them in any court or represent them in any capacity in connection with any proceedings filed in any court of law, (4) requiring respondents to return the portion of the fees and repay any and all sums obtained from the 113 defendants in the underlying proceeding and to provide relator written proof of payment, (5) imposing a civil penalty in the amount of \$282,500, and (6) providing for reimbursement of costs and expenses incurred by the board and relator. Respondents did not file objections to the final report, and this cause was considered by the court.

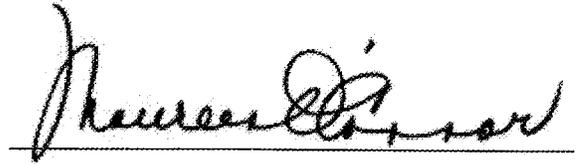
On consideration thereof, this court finds, consistent with the opinion rendered herein, that respondents' actions constitute the unauthorized practice of law. Respondents are enjoined from engaging in the unauthorized practice of law, including but not limited to signing pleadings on behalf of others, appearing in court proceedings on behalf of others, and engaging in mediation on behalf of others.

It is further ordered that a civil penalty in the amount of \$2,500 for each of the 113 offenses, for a total of \$282,500, is imposed upon respondents, jointly and severally. The civil penalty shall be paid to this court by cashier's check or money order on or before 30 days from the date of this order. If respondents fail to pay said fine on or before 30 days from the date of this order, the matter will be referred to the Attorney General for collection, and this court may find respondents in contempt. It is further ordered that respondents are liable for all collection costs pursuant to R.C. §131.02 if the debt is certified to the Attorney General for collection.

And it is further ordered that respondents shall notify their clients that respondents are not authorized to file complaints for them in any court of law or to represent them in any capacity in connection with proceedings filed in a court of law.

It is further ordered that respondents, jointly and severally, provide reimbursement of costs and expenses incurred by the board and relator in the amount of \$1,127.37, which costs shall be payable to this court by cashier's check or money order, on or before 30 days from the date of this order. It is further ordered that if these costs are not paid in full on or before 30 days from the date of this order, interest at the rate of 10% per annum shall accrue on the balance of unpaid board costs, effective 30 days from the date of this order. It is further ordered that if costs are not paid in full on or before 30 days from the date of this order, this matter will be referred to the Attorney General for collection, and respondents may be found in contempt. It is further ordered that respondents are liable for all collection costs pursuant to R.C. §131.02 if the debt is certified to the Attorney General for collection.

It is further ordered that the clerk of this court issue certified copies of this order as provided for in Gov.Bar R. VII(19)(E), that publication be made as provided for in Gov.Bar R. VII(19)(F), and that respondents 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