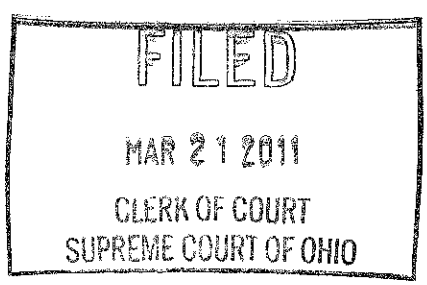
ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ON GRIEVANCES AND DISCIPLINE
The Supreme Court of Ohio

IN RE:	)	**CASE NO. 09-093**
	)	
COMPLAINT AGAINST	)	11-0281
	)	
DOREEN CANTRELL **Attorney Reg. No. 0040032**	)	**OBJECTION TO RECOMMEN-DATION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON GRIEVANCES & DISCIPLINE**
	)	
Respondent	)	
	)	
DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL	)	
Relator		

Now comes Respondent and respectfully states her objections to the recommendation of the Board that she be permanently disbarred due to the fact that there is mitigating evidence that would lead to a lesser sanction of indefinite suspension. She has made timely good faith effort to make restitution. Her dual diagnosis of chemical dependency and mental illness contributed to the cause of her misconduct and is being successfully treated so as to enable her to return to competent, ethical professional practice under specified conditions. Section 10(B)(2)

Even if the court were to convert this matter and conduct a mental health examination of Respondent and deems her to still suffer from "(a) a mental illness that is unsupported by judgment entry by a court of competent jurisdiction and (b) mental illness substantially impairs the ability of the attorney to practice law," the result could be the lesser sanction of indefinite suspension. Rule V, Section 7



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Respondent

BRIEF

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On March 1, 2011, the court issued its order that respondent show cause why she should not be permanently disbarred. Respondent objects to the recommendation because there is mitigating evidence in her favor that far outweighs any aggravating evidence against her. Chemical dependency and mental illness directly contributed to the cause of her misconduct. She has since completed a six month approved program of chemical dependency at Northeastern Ohio Community Alternative Program and began a successful program of mental health treatment with Pathways and Neighboring.

Respondent tried drugs for the first time in her life in 2007. She admitted she was an alcoholic at an early age but did not have any consequences or receive treatment for it until she began to use crack cocaine. This quickly turned into an addiction that caused her to compromise her strong life-long values with disastrous results. She violated housing authority rules and when caught reacted inappropriately. To make the housing charge go away, she used other peoples money. When the prosecution would not settle and insisted on prison, she drank heavily, spent the money she had collected on crack, attempted suicide twice in May and June of 2009 and was convicted of possession and two counts of theft.

She was sentenced to jail time, the Jail Treatment Program and six months at NEOCAP. She has been clean and sober to this day, has completed 200 community service hours and has increased her AA meeting attendance voluntarily from four to seven days per week in an attempt to join the Ohio Lawyers Assistance Program and has obtained a sponsor.

She now sees that her professional misconduct was a product of both her mental illness and chemical dependency and that both aspects were in desperate need of treatment. She did not present this mitigating evidence because of her severe mental illness that is documented but was untreated. She has been treating with Dr. Praveen Abraham, a psychiatrist at Pathways since December 2010 and started dual diagnosis therapy at Neighboring in January 2011.

Respondent practiced law for over 20 years and had a clean record before these incidents. She has made timely good faith efforts to make restitution to all parties and has hope that her experiences will come to somehow benefit others.

LAW AND ARGUMENT

Significant mitigating evidence from professionals along with testimonials of clients and family that show a great contribution to the community and express a devotion to an underprivileged class of client should be considered. *Cincinnati Bar Association Et Al. v. Lawson,* 119 Ohio St.3d 58; 2008 Ohio LEXIS 1775

CONCLUSION

The respondent's mitigating evidence; her condition, good works and past and present treatment will far outweigh any aggravating circumstances in this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

A true copy of the foregoing Objections was sent by ~~regular~~ priority U.S. mail to Heather Hissom, Assistant Disciplinary Counsel, 250 Civic Center Drive, Suite 325, Columbus, OH 43215 this 18th day of March, 2011.

DOREEN M. CANTRELL