



**BEFORE THE BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS
APPOINTED BY
THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS**

IN THE MATTER OF §
RICHARD REED FRITZ, § **CAUSE NO. 57322**
STATE BAR CARD NO. 00793760 §

DEFAULT JUDGMENT OF DISBARMENT

On the 17th day of October 2017, the above-styled and numbered disciplinary action was called for hearing before the Board of Disciplinary Appeals. Petitioner Commission for Lawyer Discipline of the State Bar of Texas appeared by attorney and announced ready. Respondent, although duly cited to appear and having notice of the hearing, failed to answer or appear and wholly made default. All questions of fact as well as all issues of law were submitted to the Board of Disciplinary Appeals for determination. Having considered the pleadings on file, having received evidence, and having heard the argument of counsel, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals makes the following findings and orders:

Findings of Fact. The Board of Disciplinary Appeals finds that:

- (1) Respondent, Richard Reed Fritz, State Bar Card Number 00793760, is licensed by the Supreme Court of Texas but not currently authorized to practice law in the State of Texas due to being administratively suspended.

- (2) On or about March 25, 2014, a document entitled Information with Notice of Default with exhibits attached was filed in the Supreme Court of Missouri in a matter styled *In Re: Richard R. Fritz, 4600 Madison Avenue, Suite 1100, Kansas City, MO 64112, 8044 Pawnee, Apt. 1, Prairie Village KS 66208, Missouri Bar No. 53606*. Attached to the Notice of Default as Exhibit B was a document entitled Information and is styled *In Re: Richard R. Fritz, MO Bar No. 53606, 8044 Pawnee, Apt. 1, Prairie*

Village KS 66208, which outlines Respondent's misconduct.

- (3) On or about March 25, 2014, an Order was signed in the Supreme Court of Missouri in a matter styled *In Re: Richard R. Fritz, Respondent, Supreme Court No. SC94083, MBE # 53606*, that states in pertinent part as follows:

It appearing Respondent is guilty of professional misconduct and should be disciplined;

Now, therefore, it is ordered by the Court that the said Richard R. Fritz be, and he is hereby disbarred, that his right and license to practice law in the State of Missouri is canceled and that his name be stricken from the roll of attorneys in this State....

- (4) The Information states that Respondent met with Ms. Willie Mae Jackson (hereinafter "Jackson") at a hotel in Dallas, Texas, to discuss a real estate matter involving land and oil rights in her family. Respondent took with him approximately 175 sheets of Jackson's documents and promised to return them to her in two weeks. Respondent never contacted Jackson to return the documents. Jackson made numerous attempts to contact Respondent by sending text messages, emails and leaving voice messages. Respondent never returned Jackson's documents or contacted her regarding same. Jackson filed a complaint with the OCDC on January 28, 2013. The OCDC wrote to Respondent on three occasions asking for a response to the complaint but Respondent never responded.
- (5) Respondent was found guilty of misconduct for violations of the following rules: Rule 4-1.3, failing to act with reasonable diligence and promptness in handling Jackson's family land and oil matter; Rule 4-1.4, failing to keep Jackson reasonably informed about the status of her matter and failing to promptly comply with her request for information about her case; Rule 4-1.15(e), failing to maintain Jackson's property separate from his own property and failing to return same and failing to appropriately safeguard the documents; Rule 4-1.16, failing to surrender personal property to the client upon termination of his representation; and Rule 4-8.1(c), failing to respond to a lawful demand for information from the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel.
- (6) Respondent, Richard Reed Fritz, is the same person as Richard R. Fritz who is the subject of the Order of the Supreme Court of Missouri described above.
- (7) The disbarment imposed by the Supreme Court of Missouri is final.
- (8) Respondent was served with the Third Amended Petition for Reciprocal Discipline and Order to Show Cause with hearing notice by a duly

authorized process server on September 15, 2017 and the affidavit of service was filed with the Board on September 27, 2017.

Conclusions of Law. Based upon the foregoing findings of fact the Board of Disciplinary Appeals makes the following conclusions of law:

- (1) This Board has jurisdiction to hear and determine this matter. Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure Rule 7.08(H).
- (2) Reciprocal discipline identical to that imposed by Supreme Court of Missouri is warranted in this case.

It is, accordingly, **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED** that Respondent, Richard Reed Fritz, State Bar Card No. 00793760, be and he is hereby **DISBARRED** from the practice of law in the State of Texas and his license to practice law in this state be and is hereby revoked.

It is further **ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED** that Respondent, Richard Reed Fritz, is prohibited from practicing law in Texas, holding himself out as an attorney at law, performing any legal services for others, accepting any fee directly or indirectly for legal services, appearing as counsel in any proceeding in any Texas court or before any administrative body or holding himself out to others or using his name, in any manner, in conjunction with the words "attorney at law," "attorney," "counselor at law," or "lawyer."

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Richard Reed Fritz, shall immediately notify in writing each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, and chief justice of each and every court, if any, in which Respondent, Richard Reed Fritz, has any legal matter pending, if any, of his disbarment, of the style and cause number of the pending matter(s), and of the name, address, and telephone number of the client(s) Respondent is representing in that court.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent shall file with the State Bar of Texas, Statewide Compliance Monitor, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701), not later than thirty (30) days from the date of this Order, an affidavit stating Respondent

has notified in writing each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, and chief justice of each and every court in which Respondent has any matter pending of the terms of this judgment, the style and cause number of the pending matter(s), and the name, address and telephone number of the client(s) Respondent is representing in Court.


It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Richard Reed Fritz, shall immediately notify each of his current clients and opposing counsel, if any, in writing, of his disbarment. In addition to such notification, Respondent is **ORDERED** to return all files, papers, unearned fees paid in advance, and all other monies and properties which are in his possession but which belong to current or former clients, if any, to those respective clients or former clients within thirty (30) days after the date on which this Judgment is signed by the Board.

Respondent is further **ORDERED** to file with the State Bar of Texas, Statewide Compliance Monitor, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701), within thirty (30) days, an affidavit stating that all current clients and opposing counsel have been notified of his disbarment and that all files, papers, unearned fees paid in advance, and all other monies and properties belonging to clients and former clients have been returned as ordered herein. If Respondent should be unable to return any file, papers, money or other property to any client or former client, Respondent's affidavit shall state with particularity the efforts made by Respondent with respect to each particular client and the cause of his inability to return to said client any file, paper, money or other property. Respondent is also **ORDERED** to mail copies of all notification letters to clients to the Statewide Compliance Monitor, Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Richard Reed Fritz, immediately surrender his Texas law license and permanent State Bar Card to the Statewide Compliance Monitor, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711, for transmittal to the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas.

It is further **ORDERED** that a certified copy of the Third Amended Petition for Reciprocal Discipline on file herein, along with a copy of this Judgment, be sent to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, Texas 78711.

Signed this 18 day of October 2017.



CHAIR PRESIDING