

DEC 05 2017

Sarah LOUKS
District Clerk, Bastrop County

CAUSE NO. 29,123

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER
DISCIPLINE

v.

CRAIG A. WASHINGTON

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

BASTROP COUNTY, TEXAS

335th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**JUDGMENT REVOKING PROBATION AND ACTIVELY
SUSPENDING RESPONDENT FROM THE PRACTICE OF LAW**

On November 21, 2017, the Court heard the Petition for Revocation of Probation filed by the Commission for Lawyer Discipline of the State Bar of Texas against Respondent, Craig A. Washington, State Bar No. 20901000. Petitioner appeared by attorney and announced ready. Respondent, Craig A. Washington, appeared by attorney and announced ready. All issues of fact and questions of law were submitted to the Court. This Court retains jurisdiction to hear a petition to revoke a probated suspension from the practice of law during the full term of suspension, including any probationary period.

Having considered the pleadings, and having heard the evidence and the argument of counsel, the Court finds as follows:

- (1) Respondent, Craig A. Washington, whose State Bar Card number is 20901000, is currently licensed and authorized by the Supreme Court of Texas to practice law.
- (2) On January 8, 2015, a Judgment of Partially Probated Suspension was entered against Respondent finding that he violated the following Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct: 1.01(b), 1.03(a), 1.15(d), and 8.04(a)(3). Respondent was suspended from the practice of law in Texas for a period of four (4) years; eighteen months of the suspension was active and the remaining thirty (30) months was probated contingent on Respondent's compliance with specific terms and conditions. On March 12, 2015, an Order on Respondent's Motion for New Trial and Motion for Stay of Judgment Pending Appeal was entered wherein the Judgment of Partially Probated Suspension was amended. Pursuant to that order, Respondent was suspended from the practice of law for a period of four (4) years;

twelve (12) months of the suspension was active and the remaining thirty-six (36) months was probated contingent on Respondent's compliance with specific terms and conditions.

- (3) Respondent was ordered not to violate any term of the judgment.
- (4) Respondent was ORDERED to pay reasonable and necessary attorney's fees and direct expenses to the State Bar of Texas in the amount of \$24,693.74 (twenty-four thousand six hundred and ninety-three dollars and 74/100). The payment of attorney's fees and direct expenses was ordered paid in monthly installments of \$685.93 beginning on February 1, 2016, and continuing on the first day of each month thereafter until the balance is paid in full. Respondent was ordered to pay the attorney's fees and expenses by certified or cashier's check or money order. Respondent was ordered to forward the funds, made payable to the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701).
- (5) Respondent violated the Judgment of Probated Suspension and the Order on Respondent's Motion for New Trial and Motion for Stay of Judgment Pending Appeal by failing to make any payments towards the \$24,693.74 for attorneys' fees and expenses. Specifically, Respondent failed to remit payments of \$685.93 on the following dates: February 1, 2016, March 1, 2016, April 1, 2016, May 1, 2016, June 1, 2016, July 1, 2016, August 1, 2016, September 1, 2016, October 1, 2016, November 1, 2016, December 1, 2016, January 1, 2017, February 1, 2017, March 1, 2017, April 1, 2017, May 1, 2017, June 1, 2017, July 1, 2017, August 1, 2017, September 1, 2017, October 1, 2017, and November 1, 2017. Respondent currently owes \$15,090.46 to the State Bar of Texas.

Based on these facts, the Court concludes that:

- (1) The Court has continuing jurisdiction to hear a petition to revoke a probated suspension from the practice of law during the full term of suspension, including and probationary period. Tex. R. Disciplinary P. 3.13; *Langley v. Comm'n for Lawyer Discipline*, 191 S.W.3d 913, (Tex.App.—Dallas 2006); *Comm'n for Lawyer Discipline v. Denisco*, 132 S.W.3d 211, 217 (Tex.App.—Houston (14th Dist.) 2004).
- (2) Respondent has materially violated the terms and conditions of the Judgment of Partially Probated Suspension signed on January 8, 2015, and of the Order on Respondent's Motion for New Trial and Motion for Stay of Judgment Pending Appeal signed on March 12, 2015.
- (3) Respondent should be actively suspended from practicing law for the full term of the suspension as originally imposed by the Judgment of Partially Probated Suspension without credit for any probationary time served. TRDP 3.13.

It is therefore, ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED that Respondent, Craig A. Washington, State Bar No. 20901000, be, and hereby is, actively SUSPENDED from the practice of law in the State of Texas for a period of three years effective immediately on the date this judgment is signed and ending on December 3, 2020.

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

It is further ORDERED that Respondent, Craig A. Washington, not later than thirty (30) days shall 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, Craig A. Washington, has any legal matter pending, if any, of his suspension, 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. Respondent is also ORDERED to mail copies of all such notifications to the Statewide Compliance Monitor, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711.

It is further ORDERED that Respondent, Craig A. Washington, shall immediately notify each of his current clients and opposing counsel, if any, in writing, of his suspension. 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. Respondent is further ORDERED to file with the Statewide Compliance Monitor, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711, within the same thirty (30) days, an affidavit stating that all current clients have been notified of his suspension 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.

It is further ORDERED that Respondent, Craig A. Washington, immediately surrender his Texas law license and permanent State Bar Card to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, for transmittal to the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas.

It is further ORDERED that this Judgment Revoking Probation and Actively Suspending Respondent from the Practice of Law shall be made a matter of public record and be published in the Texas Bar Journal.

Signed this 5 day of December 2017.



Honorable George Gallagher
Judge Presiding

Filed 1:51 P m
DEC 05 2017
SARAH LOCKS
District Clerk, Bastrop County