

CAUSE NO. DC-18-04186

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER
DISCIPLINE

v.

LLOYD EUGENE WARD
File No. 201704153

SECTION 15.051

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS

191st JUDICIAL DISTRICT

JUDGMENT OF FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION

On March 6, 2020, came on to be heard the above-entitled and numbered cause. Petitioner, Commission for Lawyer Discipline, appeared, by and through its attorney of record, Jackie K. Wheelington, and announced ready. Respondent, **LLOYD EUGENE WARD**, appeared with his attorney of record, Richard M. Hunt, and announced ready.

Jurisdiction and Venue

On the 18th day of March 2018, pursuant to Rule 3.02 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, the Supreme Court of Texas appointed the Honorable Steve Burgess to preside over this disciplinary action. The Court finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of this action, and that venue is proper in the District Court of Dallas County, Texas.

Professional Misconduct

The Court, after considering the testimony and evidence presented at trial, and after hearing and considering the arguments of counsel and the applicable law, finds that Respondent has committed Professional Misconduct as defined by Rule 1.06(W) of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure by violating Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct 3.03(a)(1). The allegations of professional misconduct were brought to the attention of the State Bar of Texas by a complaint filed by Charles William Branham.

Sanction

The Court finds that the appropriate discipline for such acts of misconduct is a suspension from the practice of law in Texas.

IT IS, ACCORDINGLY, ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED, that Respondent, **LLOYD EUGENE WARD**, Bar Card Number **20845100**, be and is hereby suspended from the practice of law in Texas, for a period of thirty-six (36) months, with the suspension being fully probated pursuant to the terms stated below. The period of probated suspension shall begin on March 7, 2020, and shall end on March 6, 2023.

Terms of Probation

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED, that during all periods of suspension, Respondent shall be under the following terms and conditions:

1. Respondent shall not violate any term of this judgment.
2. Respondent shall not engage in professional misconduct as defined by Rule 1.06(W) of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.
3. Respondent shall not violate any state or federal criminal statutes.
4. Respondent shall keep State Bar of Texas membership department notified of current mailing, residence and business addresses and telephone numbers.
5. Respondent shall comply with Minimum Continuing Legal Education requirements.
6. Respondent shall comply with Interest on Lawyers Trust Account (IOLTA) requirements.
7. Respondent shall promptly respond to any request for information from the Chief Disciplinary Counsel in connection with any investigation of any allegations of professional misconduct.
8. Respondent shall pay all reasonable and necessary attorney's fees and direct expenses to the State Bar of Texas in the amount of Nineteen Thousand Two Hundred Sixteen and 74/100 Dollars (\$19,216.74). The payment shall be due and payable on or before December 31, 2020, and shall be made by certified or cashier's check or money order.

Respondent shall forward the funds, made payable to the State Bar of Texas, to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701).

9. Respondent shall make contact with the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Offices' Compliance Monitor at 877-953-5535, ext. 1334 and Special Programs Coordinator at 877-953-5535, ext. 1323, not later than seven (7) days after receipt of a copy of this judgment to coordinate Respondent's compliance.

Probation Revocation

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that if evidence arises that Respondent has committed professional misconduct or has violated any term of this judgment, the State Bar of Texas may, in addition to all other remedies available, file a motion to revoke probation with the District Court in the County of Respondent's residence or place of practice and serve a photocopy of the Motion on Respondent and Respondent's counsel, Richard M. Hunt, by personal service, certified mail, return receipt requested, facsimile transmission or, in the case of Respondent's counsel, email to rhunt@hunthuey.com.

The Court shall, without the aid of a jury and within thirty (30) days of service of the motion upon Respondent, conduct an evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, the Court shall determine by a preponderance of the evidence whether Respondent has violated any term or condition of probation of this Judgment. If the Court finds that Respondent has committed acts of professional misconduct during the period of probated suspension or violated any term of this probation or this Judgment, the Court shall enter an Order revoking probation and placing Respondent on active suspension from the date of such revocation order. Upon revocation, Respondent shall be actively suspended for the full thirty-six (36) month term of suspension and shall not be given credit for any term of

probation served prior to the revocation. An order revoking probation may not be superseded or stayed.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any conduct on the part of Respondent which serves as the basis for a motion to revoke probation may also be brought as independent grounds for discipline as allowed under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct and Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure and/or the State Bar Rules.

Attorney's Fees and Expenses

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED, that Respondent shall pay Nineteen Thousand Two Hundred Sixteen and 74/100 Dollars (\$19,216.74) in attorney's fees and costs to the State Bar of Texas, no later than December 31, 2020. The payment shall be paid by cashier's check or money order made payable to the State Bar of Texas and submitted 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).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all amounts ordered herein are due to the misconduct of Respondent, and they are assessed as a part of the sanction in accordance with Rule 1.06(Z) of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. Any amount not paid shall accrue interest at the maximum legal rate per annum until paid, and the State Bar of Texas shall have all writs and other post-judgment remedies against Respondent in order to collect all unpaid amounts.

Publication

This suspension shall be made a matter of record and appropriately published in accordance with the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Order to District Clerk

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of this Court shall forward a certified copy of the current *Disciplinary Petition* on file in this case, along with a certified copy of this *Judgment of Fully Probated Suspension* to the following: (1) Clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas, Supreme Court Building, P.O. Box 12248, Austin, Texas 78711; (2) Heather White, State Bar of Texas, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, P. O. Box 12487, Austin, Texas 78711; (3) Jackie K. Wheelington, Assistant Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, 14651 Dallas Parkway, Suite 925, Dallas, Texas 75254; and (4) Respondent, by and through his attorney of record, Richard M. Hunt, HUNT HUEY PLLC, 100 Crescent Court, Suite 700, Dallas, Texas 75201.

Other Relief


All requested relief not expressly granted herein is expressly DENIED.

Signed this the 23rd day of October, 2020.

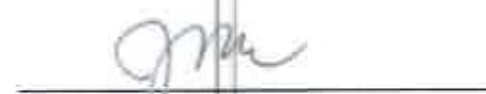


Honorable Steve Burgess
Judge Presiding by Appointment

APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:



Richard M. Hunt
State Bar No. 10288700
Counsel for Respondent



Jackie K. Wheelington
State Bar No. 24086673
Assistant Disciplinary Counsel