

FILED

JUN 19 2018

STATE BAR OF TEXAS
HOUSTON CDCBEFORE THE EVIDENTIARY PANEL 5-1 OF THE
STATE BAR DISTRICT NO. 5 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER	§	
DISCIPLINE,	§	
Petitioner	§	201700785 [RODRIGUEZ]
	§	
V.	§	
	§	
ROBERT LEON THOMAS, JR.	§	FORT BEND COUNTY
Respondent	§	

JUDGMENT OF ACTIVE SUSPENSION**Parties and Appearance**

On June 13, 2018, came to be heard the above styled and numbered cause. Petitioner, Commission for Lawyer Discipline, appeared by and through its attorney of record and announced ready. Although duly noticed of the hearing, Respondent, Robert Leon Thomas, Jr., Texas Bar Number 24004945, failed to appear.

Jurisdiction and Venue

The Evidentiary Panel 5-1 having been duly appointed to hear this complaint by the chair of the Grievance Committee for State Bar of Texas District 5, finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of this action and that venue is proper.

Professional Misconduct

The Evidentiary Panel, having considered all of the pleadings, evidence, stipulations, and argument, finds Respondent has committed Professional Misconduct as defined by Rule 1.06(W) of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Findings of Fact

The Evidentiary Panel, having considered the pleadings, evidence and argument of counsel, makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

1. Respondent is an attorney licensed to practice law in Texas and is a member of the State Bar of Texas.
2. At the beginning of this suit, Respondent resided in and maintained his principal place of practice in Fort Bend County, Texas.
3. Respondent was hired to represent Melinda Rodriguez ("Rodriguez") in a family law matter.
4. In representing Rodriguez, Respondent neglected the legal matter entrusted to him.

Conclusions of Law

The Evidentiary Panel concludes that, based on foregoing findings of fact, the following Texas Disciplinary Rule of Professional Conduct has been violated: 1.01(b)(1).

Sanction

The Evidentiary Panel, having found that Respondent has committed Professional Misconduct, heard and considered additional evidence regarding the appropriate sanction to be imposed against Respondent. After hearing all evidence and argument and after having considered the factors in Rule 2.18 of the Texas Rule of Disciplinary Procedure, the Evidentiary Panel finds that the proper discipline of the Respondent for each act of Professional Misconduct is an active suspension.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that Respondent shall be actively suspended from the practice of law for a period of twenty-four (24) months beginning June 19, 2018 and ending June 19, 2020.

Terms of Active Suspension

It is further ORDERED that during the term of active suspension ordered herein, Respondent shall be 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 or in any representative capacity in any proceeding in any Texas or Federal 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, on or before July 19, 2018, Respondent shall notify each of Respondent's current clients and opposing counsel in writing of this suspension.

In addition to such notification, it is further ORDERED Respondent shall return any files, papers, unearned monies and other property belonging to current clients in Respondent's possession to the respective clients or to another attorney at the client's request.

It is further ORDERED Respondent shall file with the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701) on or before July 19, 2018, an affidavit stating all current clients and opposing counsel have been notified of Respondent's suspension and that all files, papers, monies and other property belonging to all current clients have been returned as ordered herein.

It is further ORDERED Respondent shall, on or before July 19, 2018, notify in writing each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, administrative judge or officer and chief justice of each and every court or tribunal 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.

It is further ORDERED Respondent shall file with the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701) on or before July 19, 2018, 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, on or before July 19, 2018, Respondent shall surrender his law license and permanent State Bar Card 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) to be forwarded to the Supreme Court of Texas.

Publication

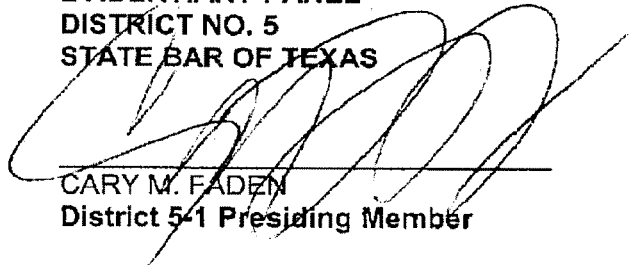
This suspension shall be made a matter of record and appropriately published in accordance with the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Other Relief

All requested relief not expressly granted herein is expressly DENIED.

SIGNED this 18 day of June, 2018.

**EVIDENTIARY PANEL
DISTRICT NO. 5
STATE BAR OF TEXAS**



CARY M. FADEN
District 5-1 Presiding Member