

CAUSE NO. 2019-31263

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCIPLINE, § IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
Petitioner; §
§
vs. § HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
§
CANDICE LEE LEONARD, §
Respondent. § 190th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

AGREED JUDGMENT OF PROBATED SUSPENSION

Parties and Appearance

On this day came to be heard the above-captioned matter. Petitioner, the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, through its attorney of record, E. William Nichols II, and Respondent, Candice Lee Leonard, Bar No. 24005603, through her attorney of record, Jared R. Woodfill, announced that a settlement has been reached in the matter.

Jurisdiction and Venue

On the 26th day of April, 2019, pursuant to Rule 3.02 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, the Supreme Court of Texas appointed the Honorable John B. Stevens, Jr. 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. Both parties have waived trial by jury.

Professional Misconduct

The Court, having considered the pleadings and the agreement of the parties, finds that Respondent has committed Professional Misconduct as defined by Rule 1.06CC of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure and in violation of Rules 3.02 and 3.03(a)(1) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

FILED
Marilyn Burgess
District Clerk

OCT 13 2020

Time: 9:42 am
Harris County, Texas
By: JB Deputy

Sanction

It is AGREED and ORDERED that the sanction of a Probated Suspension shall be imposed against Respondent in accordance with the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED that Respondent be suspended from the practice of law for a period of one (1) year, with the suspension being fully probated pursuant to the terms stated below. The period of probated suspension shall begin on October 1, 2020 and shall end on September 30, 2021.

Terms of Probation

It is further AGREED and ORDERED 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 1.06CC of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.
3. Respondent shall not violate any state or federal criminal statutes.
4. Respondent shall keep the 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 reasonable and necessary attorneys' fees and direct expenses in the amount of \$1,000.00.
9. In addition to complying with the Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) requirements of the State Bar of Texas, Respondent shall complete three (3) additional hours of continuing legal education each in the areas of Ethics and Family Law, for a total of six (6) additional hours.

10. Respondent shall make contact with the Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program (TLAP) not later than ten (10) days after receipt of a copy of this judgment to inquire as to services and referrals offered by that program to aid in Respondent's rehabilitation.

Probation Revocation

Upon determination that Respondent has violated any term of this judgment, the Chief Disciplinary Counsel may, in addition to all other remedies available, file a motion to revoke probation with the Court and serve a photocopy of the motion on Respondent pursuant to Tex.R.Civ.P. 21a.

The Court shall conduct an evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, the Court shall determine by a preponderance of the evidence whether Respondent has violated any term of this Judgment. If the Court finds grounds for revocation, the Court shall enter an order revoking probation and imposing an active suspension upon Respondent from the practice of law for a period of one (1) year commencing on or after the date of revocation. Respondent shall not be given credit for any term of probation served prior to revocation.

It is further AGREED and 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.

Attorneys' Fees and Expenses

It is further AGREED and ORDERED that Respondent shall pay reasonable and necessary attorneys' fees and direct expenses in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the State Bar of Texas. An initial payment of \$250.00 shall be due at the time this judgment is signed by Respondent followed by seven (7) \$100.00 monthly payments due on the 15th of each month, beginning in October, 2020. The final payment of \$50.00 shall be due on May 15, 2021.

All payments 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 Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, 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, are assessed as a part of the sanction in accordance with Rule 1.06(FF) 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.

Additional CLE

In addition to complying with the Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) requirements of the State Bar of Texas, Respondent shall complete three (3) additional hours of continuing legal education each in the areas of Ethics and Family Law. These six (6) additional hours of CLE are to be completed between October 1, 2020 and September 30, 2021. Within ten (10) days of the completion of each of these additional CLE hours, Respondent shall verify completion of the course to the State Bar of Texas, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Suite 200, Austin, TX 78701).

Respondent shall make contact with the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's 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.

Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program

Respondent shall make contact with the Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program (TLAP) at its

hotline number, 800-343-8527, not later than ten (10) days after receipt of a copy of this judgment to inquire as to services and referrals offered by that program to aid in Respondent's rehabilitation. Respondent shall additionally send verification of contact with TLAP to the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel within fifteen (15) days of such contact.

Publication

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

Other Relief

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 copy of this Judgment to the following: (1) Clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas, Supreme Court Building, Austin, Texas 78711; (2) The State Bar of Texas, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, P. O. Box 12487, Austin, Texas 78711; and (3) Respondent, through her attorney of record, Jared R. Woodfill, Woodfill Law Firm, 3 Riverway, Suite 750, Houston, Texas 77056.

IT IS ORDERED that all costs of court incurred in the prosecution of this lawsuit shall be taxed against Respondent.

All requested relief not expressly granted herein is expressly DENIED.

SIGNED this 7th day of October, 2020.


HON. JOHN H. STEVENS, JR.
Specially Assigned Judge

AGREED AS TO BOTH FORM AND SUBSTANCE:

Candice Schwager

CANDICE LEE LEONARD
State Bar No. 24005603
Respondent

E. William Nichols II

E. WILLIAM NICHOLS II
State Bar No. 24077666
Counsel for Petitioner

Jared R. Woodfill

JARED R. WOODFILL
State Bar No. 00788715
Counsel for Respondent



I, Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk of Harris County, Texas certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original record filed and or recorded in my office, electronically or hard copy, as it appears on this date.

Witness my official hand and seal of office this October 20, 2020

Certified Document Number: 92594681 Total Pages: 6

Marilyn Burgess, DISTRICT CLERK
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

In accordance with Texas Government Code 406.013 electronically transmitted authenticated documents are valid. If there is a question regarding the validity of this document and or seal please e-mail support@hcdistrictclerk.com