## ORDER OF THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

## Misc. Docket No. 01 9097

Appointment of a District Judge to Preside in a State Bar Disciplinary Action

The Supreme Court of Texas hereby appoints the Honorable Dan Beck, Judge of the 155th District Court of Fayette County, Texas, to preside in the Disciplinary Action styled:

The Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. Donald C. McLeaish

to be filed in a District Court of Dallas County, Texas.

The Clerk of the Supreme Court shall promptly forward to the District Clerk of Dallas County, Texas, a copy of the Disciplinary Petition and this Order for filing and service pursuant to Rule 3.03, Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

As ordered by the Supreme Court of Texas, in chambers,

With the Seal thereof affixed at the City Of Austin, this  $\frac{15+3}{2}$  day of June, 2001.

JOHNT. ADAMS, CLERK

This assignment, made by Misc. Docket No. 01-9097, is also an assignment by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court pursuant to Texas Government Code §74.057.

Signed this  $\underline{14}$  day of June, 2001.

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Thomas R. Phillips Chief Justice

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCIPLINE V. DONALD C. McLEAISH IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS \_\_\_\_\_JUDICIAL DISTRICT

#### **DISCIPLINARY PETITION**

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## TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

Petitioner, the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, a committee of the State Bar of Texas (hereinafter called "Petitioner"), complains of Respondent, Donald C. McLeaish, (hereinafter called "Respondent"), showing the Court:

#### I.

#### **Discovery Control Plan**

Pursuant to Rules 190.1 and 190.3, TEXAS RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE (TRCP), Petitioner intends discovery in this case to be conducted under the Level II Discovery Control Plan.

#### II.

Petitioner brings this disciplinary action pursuant to the State Bar Act, Tex. Gov't. Code Ann. §81.001, <u>et seq.</u> (Vernon 1988), the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct and the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. The complaint which forms the basis of the Disciplinary Petition was filed on or after May 1, 1992.

#### Donald C. McLeaish - Disciplinary Petition Page 1

Respondent is an attorney licensed to practice law in Texas and is a member of the State Bar of Texas. Respondent is a resident of and has his principal place of practice in Dallas County, Texas. An officer may serve citation on Respondent's attorney, Louis Webber at Preston Commons West, 8117 Preston Road, Suite 680, Dallas, Texas 75225.

#### IV.

In March of 1994, Anne Craig ("Craig") participated in a trial drug study conducted by Burroughs-Welcome Company ("Burroughs"). After taking the drug, Craig became ill and incurred numerous medical expenses. On October 13, 1994, Craig employed Respondent to represent her in a claim for damages against Burroughs. Craig advised Respondent that her main objective was having her medical bills paid by Burroughs. Craig subsequently terminated the representation and consulted with new counsel, who, in a letter dated November 21, 1997, attempted to collect Craig's file from Respondent. Respondent failed to timely surrender Craig's file.

#### V.

Such acts and/or omissions on the part of Respondent as are described in Paragraph IV, hereinabove, which occurred on or after January 1, 1990, constitute conduct which violates Rule 1.15(d) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### VI.

The complaint which forms the basis of the Cause of Action hereinabove set forth was brought to the attention of the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas by Anne Craig filing a complaint on August 27, 1998.

Donald C. McLeaish - Disciplinary Petition Page 2

#### PRAYER

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Petitioner prays for judgment that Respondent be disciplined as the facts shall warrant; and that Petitioner have such other relief to which entitled, including costs of Court and attorney's fees.

Respectfully submitted,

**Dawn Miller** Chief Disciplinary Counsel

Ardita Vick Assistant Disciplinary Counsel

State Bar of Texas Litigation - Dallas 3710 Rawlins Suite 800 Dallas, Texas 75219 (214) 559-4353 FAX (214) 559-4335

Ardita Vick State Bar Card No. 00786311

#### **ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER**

Donald C. McLeaish - Disciplinary Petition Page 3

# STATE BAR OF TEXAS



Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel

April 23, 2001

CMRRR NO. 7000 1670 0013 5409 5307

John T. Adams, Clerk Supreme Court of Texas P.O. Box 12248 Austin, Texas 78711

### **RE:** Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. Donald McLeaish

Dear Mr. Adams:

Enclosed please find an original and two (2) copies of a Disciplinary Petition being filed by the Commission for Lawyer Discipline against Donald McLeaish. Mr. McLeaish has designated Dallas County, Texas, as his principal place of practice. Request is hereby made that the Court appoint an active District Judge who does not reside in the Administrative Judicial Region in which Respondent resides to preside in this case. Upon appointment, request is made that you notify the Respondent at the address shown below and the undersigned of the identity and address of the judge assigned:

Donald McLeaish c/o Louis Webber Preston Commons West 8117 Preston Road, Suite 680 Dallas, Texas 75225

As a practical matter, I would respectfully suggest that you inquire with the judge to be appointed as to: (1) whether he or she will be able to comply with the 180 day deadline by which the case must be set for trial set forth in Section 3.07 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. If not, I would respectfully request that an alternate appointment be made.

Regency Plaza, 3710 Rawlins, Suite 800, Dallas, Texas 75219 Telephone: (214) 559-4353 Fax: (214) 559-4335 John T. Adams, Clerk Page 2

Once a trial judge has been appointed, please forward the original and two (2) copies of the Disciplinary Petition, the filing fee check, also enclosed herewith, and the Court's appointing order to the District Clerk of Dallas County, Texas, with the request that the suit be filed, service be obtained, and a file-marked copy of the petition be returned to the undersigned.

Also enclosed are a pre-addressed envelope for your use in transmitting the petition, etc., to the District Clerk of Dallas County, Texas, and a return envelope to be sent to the District Clerk of Dallas County, Texas, for the Clerk's use in returning a file-marked copy of the petition to the undersigned.

Thank you for your courtesies in this matter.

Sincerely,

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Ardita Vick Assistant Disciplinary Counsel

Enclosures

Regency Plaza, 3710 Rawlins, Suite 800, Dallas, Texas 75219 Telephone: (214) 559-4353 Fax: (214) 559-4335



The Supreme Court of Texas

CHIEF JUSTICE THOMAS R. PHILLIPS

NATHAN L. HECHT

DEBORAH G. HANKINSON

WALLACE B. JEFFERSON

CRAIG T. ENOCH PRISCILLA R. OWEN

JAMES A. BAKER

HARRIET O'NEILL

cc:

IUSTICES

201 West 14th Street Post Office Box 12248 Austin TX 78711 Telephone: 512/463-1312 Facsimile: 512/463-1365 CLERK JOHN T. ADAMS

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT WILLIAM L. WILLIS

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE ASST JIM HUTCHESON

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT NADINE SCHNEIDER

The Honorable Jim Hamlin District Clerk of Dallas County George L. Allen Courts Building 600 Commerce Street Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Mr. Hamlin:

Pursuant to Rule 3.03 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, I am sending for filing State Bar of Texas Disciplinary Action styled: *The Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. Donald C. McLeaish*, and a copy of the Supreme Court's order appointing the Honorable Dan Beck, Judge of the 155<sup>th</sup> District Court of La Grange, Texas, to preside in this Disciplinary Action.

Sincerely,

## SIGNED

John T. Adams Clerk

Honorable Dan Beck Ms. Ardita Vick Mr. Donald C. McLeaish JUN 2 5 2001



## The Supreme Court of Texas

CHIEF JUSTICE THOMAS R. PHILLIPS

JUSTICES NATHAN L. HECHT CRAIG T. ENOCH PRISCILLA R. OWEN JAMES A. BAKER DEBORAH G. HANKINSON HARRIET O'NEILL WALLACE B. JEFFERSON 201 West 14th Street Post Office Box 12248 Austin TX 78711 Telephone: 512/463-1312 Facsimile: 512/463-1365

JUN 2 5 2001

CLERK JOHN T. ADAMS

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT WILLIAM L. WILLIS

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE ASST JIM HUTCHESON

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT NADINE SCHNEIDER

Honorable Dan Beck Judge, 155<sup>th</sup> District Court 151 N. Washington Street La Grange, Texas 78945

Dear Judge Beck:

We enclose for your information a copy of the order of assignment, a copy of the Disciplinary Action, a copy of the notification letter to Ms. Vick and Mr. McLeaish, and a copy of the letter to the District Clerk of Dallas County.

We then recommend that, either before or immediately after you set the case for trial, the Dallas County District Court Administrative Office (214-653-6510) be contacted to reserve a courtroom, provide for a court reporter, etc. Finally, you should contact the Presiding Judge of the Administrative Judicial Region into which you have been assigned (214-653-2943) to obtain information on lodging, allowable expenses, and claims forms for your expenses incident to presiding over this disciplinary case.

Sincerely,

## SIGNED

John T. Adams Clerk



The Supreme Court of Texas

201 West 14th Street Post Office Box 12248 Austin TX 78711

Facsimile: 512/463-1365

Telephone: 512/463-1312

CHIEF JUSTICE THOMAS R. PHILLIPS

JUSTICES NATHAN L. HECHT CRAIG T. ENOCH PRISCILLA R. OWEN JAMES A. BAKER DEBORAH G. HANKINSON HARRIET O'NEILL WALLACE B. JEFFERSON

#### JUN 2 5 2001

CLERK JOHN T. ADAMS

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT WILLIAM L. WILLIS

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE ASST JIM HUTCHESON

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT NADINE SCHNEIDER

Ms. Ardita Vick Assistant General Counsel, State Bar of Texas 3710 Rawlins, Suite 800 Dallas, Texas 75219

Mr. Donald McLeaish c/o Louis Webber Preston Commons West 8117 Preston Road, Suite 680 Dallas, Texas 75225

Dear Ms. Vick and Mr. McLeaish:

Pursuant to Rule 3.02 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, I hereby notify you that the Supreme Court of Texas has appointed the Honorable Dan Beck, Judge of the 155<sup>th</sup> District Court, La Grange, Texas to preside in

Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. Donald C. McLeaish

Sincerely,

## SIGNED

John T. Adams Clerk