#### IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS IN THE MATTER OF I. OBIOMA AHAM-NEZE

MISC. DOCKET NO. 98- 9025

#### **ORDER**

On this day, this Court considered the Motion for Acceptance of Resignation as Attorney and Counselor at Law of L. Obioma Aham-Neze, together with the Response of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel to the Motion for Acceptance of Resignation as Attorney and Counselor at L. Obioma Aham-Neze. This Court has reviewed the Motion and Response and finds that each meets the requirements of Part X of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. In conformity with Part X, Section 10.02, of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, the Court considers the detailed statement of professional misconduct contained within the Response of Chief Disciplinary Counsel to be deemed conclusively established for all purposes. The Court, after being advised that the acceptance of the resignation is in the best interest of the public and the profession, concludes that the following Order is appropriate.

IT IS ORDERED that the law license of L. Obioma Aham-Neze of Houston, Texas, State Bar card number 00785575, which was previously issued by this Court, is cancelled and his name is dropped and deleted from the list of persons licensed to practice law in Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that L. Obioma Aham-Neze is permanently enjoined and prohibited from practicing law in the State of Texas, from holding himself out as an attorney at law, from performing any legal services for others, from giving legal advice to

others, from accepting any fee directly or indirectly for legal services, from appearing as counsel or in any representative capacity in any proceeding in any Texas court or before any Texas administrative body (whether state, county, municipal, or other), and from holding himself out to others or using his name in any manner in conjunction with the words "Attorney at Law," "Counselor at Law," or "Lawyer."

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that L. Obioma Aham-Neze, within thirty days after the date on which this Order is signed by the Court, notify in writing each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, and chief justice of each and every Texas court in which L. Obioma Aham-Neze may have any client matter pending, advising each court of his resignation, of the style and cause number of any matter pending in that court, and of the name, address and telephone number of the client(s) he is representing in that court. L. Obioma Aham-Neze is ORDERED to send copies of all these notifications to the Office of the General Counsel, State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas, 78711.

By the Court, en banc, in chambers, on this the 12th day of

January, 1998.

Thomas R. Phillips, Chief Justice

Raul A. Gonzalez, Justice

Nathan L. Hecht, Justice

Order/Aham-Neza

Craig T. Enoch, Justice

Rose Spector, Justice

Priscilla R. Owen, Justice

James A. Baker, Justice

Greg Abbott, Justice

Dehorah Hankinson Justice

Order/Aham-Neze

#### IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

# RESPONSE OF THE CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL OF THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS REGARDING L. OBIOMA AHAM-NEZE

#### TO THE HONORABLE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS:

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I, Steven W. Young, Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas, in accordance with Part X of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, file this response on behalf of the State Bar of Texas, acting by and through the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, to the Motion for Acceptance of Resignation as Attorney and Counselor at Law of L. Obioma Aham-Neze received on or about December 3, 1997. The acceptance of the resignation of L. Obioma Aham-Neze is in the best interest of the public and the profession. Disciplinary proceedings are currently pending against L. Obioma Aham-Neze ("Respondent"), regarding the following grievance files:

- 1. Case No. H0029714975, styled Loan N. Pham v. L. Obioma Aham-Neze, before the District 04C Grievance Committee for the State Bar of Texas, and
- 2. Case No. H0019714530, styled *James D. Fisher v. L. Obioma Aham-Neze*, before the District 04D Grievance Committee for the State Bar of Texas.

The two grievances by Pham and Fisher are collectively referred to as the "Disciplinary Proceedings."

Loan Pham is the business manager for Krane Health Care, a health care clinic that provided medical services to Respondent's clients. Respondent furnished Krane Health Care with letters of protection with regard to each client that obtained medical care from Krane Health Care. Respondent withheld funds from client settlements to pay the medical providers, but

failed to pay the funds to the medical providers as promised in the letters of protection. Instead, Respondent converted the money to his own use. The amount of money Respondent owes all medical providers is over Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00). Respondent's conduct regarding the Pham complaint constitutes a violation of Rules 1.14(a), 1.14(b), 1.14(c), 8.04(a)(1), 8.04(a)(2), 8.04(a)(3), and 8.04(a)(12) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

James D. Fisher is a medical provider. Respondent asked him to treat some of Respondent's clients. These clients/patients received settlements in their cases. When the cases settled, Fisher agreed to accept a one third split of the funds. Respondent will not pay Fisher, although he withheld the money from his clients to pay the bills from the medical provider. Respondent, instead of paying the medical providers, appropriated the money he withheld from his clients to pay the medical providers, for his own use. Respondent's conduct regarding the Fisher complaint constitutes a violation of Rules 1.14(a), 1.14(b), 1.14(c), 8.04(a)(1), 8.04(a)(2), 8.04(a)(3), and 8.04(a)(12) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

In view of L. Obioma Aham-Neze's execution on or about December 3, 1997, of his resignation as an attorney and counselor at law, and in anticipation of the Court's acceptance of his resignation, the Chief Disciplinary Counsel does not anticipate going forward with the pending Disciplinary Proceedings and intends to dismiss the Disciplinary Proceedings upon entry of an Order by the Supreme Court of Texas deleting L. Obioma Aham-Neze from the list of persons licensed to practice law in the State of Texas.

Steven W. Young

Chief Disciplinary Counsel for the State Bar of Texas

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that on the 20th day of January, 1998, a true and correct copy of the Response Of The Chief Disciplinary Counsel Of The State Bar Of Texas Regarding L. Obioma Aham-Neze was delivered to L. Obioma Aham-Neze, Respondent pro se, 8303 Southwest Freeway, Suite 960, Houston, Texas, 77074-1606, by certified mail number P-436 516 760, return receipt requested, postage prepaid.

Steven W. Young

Chief Disciplinary Counsel for the

State Bar of Texas

#### IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

## L. OBIOMA AHAM-NEZE'S MOTION FOR ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION AS ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

COMES NOW YOUR APPLICANT, L. OBIOMA AHAM-NEZE, and resigns as an attorney and counselor at law in the State of Texas in lieu of disciplinary action, and submits to the Court his resignation as an attorney and counselor at law, and prays that the court accepts his resignation.

- 1. Attached to this motion is the license and permanent State Bar Card issued by this Court to the Applicant, L. Obioma Aham-Neze, as an attorney and counselor at law on April 2, 1993. The license and permanent State Bar Card are surrendered by the Applicant.
- 2. Your Applicant is voluntarily resigning and withdrawing from the practice of law. Your Applicant does so in lieu of any potential discipline for any alleged professional misconduct, and hereby prays that his name be dropped and deleted from the list of persons licensed to practice law in the State of Texas, and that his resignation be accepted.

Respectfully Submitted,

L. OBIOMA AHAM-NEZE

00785575

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me by L.Obioma Aham-Neze, this the 3rd day of December, 1997.

HARRIETT PIPKIN
NOTARY PUBLIC
State of Texas
Comm. Exp. 04-03-2001

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

### STATE BAR OF TEXAS



Office of the General Counsel

February 2, 1998

John T. Adams, Clerk SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS 201 W. 14th Street Room 104 Austin, Texas 78701

RE: L. Obioma Aham Neze

Deblie Yates

Mr. Adams,

Please find enclosed the law license for L. Obioma Aham Neze. Mr. Aham Neze has submitted a request for resignation.

Let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Debbie Yates

enclosure