ORDER OF THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS Misc Docket No. 98-9050

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

The Supreme Court of Texas hereby appoints the Honorable Bradley G. Elliott, Judge of the 268th District Court of Fort Bend County, Texas, to preside in the Disciplinary Action styled:

The Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. L. Lynn Elliott

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 this Order and of the Disciplinary Petition 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 9th day of March, 1998.

JOHN T. ADAMS, CLERK
SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

This assignment, made by Misc. Docket No. 98-9050, is also an assignment by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court pursuant to Texas Government Code §74.057.

Signed this \mathcal{D} day of March, 1998.

Thomas R. Phillips
Chief Justice

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCIPLINE	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
v.	§ §	DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS
L. LYNN ELLIOTT	§ §	JUDICIAL DISTRICT

NO. __

DISCIPLINARY PETITION

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW Petitioner, the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, a committee of the State Bar of Texas (hereinafter called "Petitioner"), complaining of Respondent, L. Lynn Elliott, (hereinafter called "Respondent"), showing the Court:

I.

Petitioner brings this disciplinary action pursuant to the State Bar Act, Tex. Gov't. Code Ann. §81.001, et seq. (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.

II.

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 by and through his attorney, Douglas D. Mulder, at 2650 Maxus Energy Tower, 717 N. Harwood, Lock Box 126, Dallas, Texas 75201.

III.

In or around August 1995, Calvin Oden, Adrin Petty and Lamont Campbell (hereinafter

referred to collectively as "Complainants") were arrested in Nacogdoches County, Texas, and charged with felony drug offences. Bail was set in the amount of \$150,000.00 for each Complainant. Complainants' families, who live in Tennessee, paid a Tennessee bail bond firm \$45,000.00 in cash to post cash bonds for the release of all three (3) Complainants. The Tennessee bail bond firm wire transferred approximately \$35,000.00 of the \$45,000.00 to Rhett Stein ("Stein") in Dallas, Texas. Stein referred the cases to Respondent, who undertook to post bond to secure all three (3) Complainants' release from jail and to represent them in their criminal proceedings.

IV.

Thereafter, in spite of the fact that Complainants' families advanced cash funds to post cash bonds, Respondent did not secure the Complainants' release by filing cash bonds. Instead, Respondent drafted and filed attorney's bonds for two (2) of the Complainants, Calvin Oden ("Oden") and Adrin Petty ("Petty"), under his own name. A third attorney's bond was drafted and filed by Respondent for Lamont Campbell ("Campbell") under the name of another attorney, Stephen Wohr ("Wohr"). Prior to filing the attorney's bond using Wohr's name, Wohr was neither consulted, nor did he agree to represent Campbell. Wohr did not sign Campbell's bond.

V.

In August 1995, all three (3) Complainants were released from jail on the basis of the filing of the attorney's bonds. Thereafter, on October 13, 1995, Respondent appeared in court on behalf of all three (3) Complainants. At the hearing, Respondent failed to inform the court that Wohr was not, in fact, representing Campbell and that the attorney's bond filed for Campbell using Wohr's name was fraudulent.

Although all three (3) Complainants were released from jail on attorney's bond in August 1995, all three (3) bonds were materially deficient, in addition to one of the bonds being fraudulent. At the October 13, 1995, hearing, the court advised Respondent that the bonds were deficient and gave Respondent an opportunity to rectify the problems. Respondent, however, failed to resubmit proper, sufficient and complete bonds to the Nacogdoches County Sheriff. As a result, the bonds for all three (3) Complainants were revoked, and Complainants were reincarcerated.

VII.

Such acts and/or omissions on the part of Respondent as are described in Paragraphs III, IV, V, VI and VII, hereinabove, which occurred on or after January 1, 1990, constitute conduct which violates Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.02(a)(1), 1.03(a), 3.03(a)(1)(2) and/or 8.04(a)(3) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

VIII.

The complaint which forms the basis of the Cause of Action hereinabove set forth was brought to the attention of the Office of General Counsel of the State Bar of Texas by Calvin Oden, Adrin Petty and Lamont Campbell filing a complaint on or about March 4, 1997.

<u>PRAYER</u>

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,

Steve W. Young General Counsel

Angela Methvin

Assistant General Counsel

State Bar of Texas Litigation - Dallas 3710 Rawlins Suite 800 Dallas, Texas 75219 (214) 559-4997 FAX (214) 559-4335

Angela Methvin

State Bar Card No. 00792698

ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER

STATE BAR OF TEXAS



Office of the General Counsel

January 30, 1998

CMRRR NO. P 104 073 537

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

RE:: Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. L. Lynn Elliott

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 L. Lynn Elliott. Mr. Elliott 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 by and through his attorney at the address shown below and the undersigned of the identity and address of the judge assigned:

L. Lynn Elliott c/o Douglas D. Mulder 2650 Maxus Energy Tower 717 N. Harwood Lock Box 126 Dallas, Texas 75201

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; and (2) whether he or she can accommodate compliance with *Mellon Service Co.*, et al v. Touche Ross Co., 946 S.W.2d 862 (Tex. App. - Houston [14th Dist.] 1997), which requires that all proceedings incident to a case occur in the county of proper venue. 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 January 30, 1998 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,

Angela Methyin

Assistant General Counsel

Enclosures



THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

CHIEF JUSTICE THOMAS R. PHILLIPS

JUSTICES
RAUL A. GONZALEZ
NATHAN L. HECHT
CRAIG T. ENOCH
ROSE SPECTOR
PRISCILLA R. OWEN
JAMES A. BAKER
GREG ABBOTT
DEBORAH G. HANKINSON

POST OFFICE BOX 12248

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

TEL: (512) 463-1312

FAX: (512) 463-1365

CLERK
JOHN T. ADAMS

EXECUTIVE ASS'T WILLIAM L. WILLIS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASS'T NADINE SCHNEIDER

MAR 1 1 1998

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

Dear Mr. Long:

Pursuant to Rule 3.03 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, I am sending for filing State Bar of Texas Disciplinary Action styled: <u>The Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. L. Lynn Elliott</u>, and a copy of the Supreme Court's order appointing the Honorable Bradley G. Elliott, Judge of the 268th District Court, Richmond, Texas, to preside in this Disciplinary Action.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

John T. Adams Clerk

cc:

Hon. Bradley G. Elliott Ms. Angela Methvin Mr. L. Lynn Elliott



THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

CHIEF JUSTICE THOMAS R. PHILLIPS

JUSTICES
RAUL A. GONZALEZ
NATHAN L. HECHT
CRAIG T. ENOCH
ROSE SPECTOR
PRISCILLA R. OWEN
JAMES A. BAKER
GREG ABBOTT
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MAR 1 1 1998

CLERK JOHN T. ADAMS

EXECUTIVE ASS'T WILLIAM L. WILLIS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASS'T NADINE SCHNEIDER

Honorable Bradley G. Elliott Judge, 268th District Court 301 Jackson Street Richmond, Texas 77469

Dear Judge Elliott:

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. Methvin and Mr. Elliott, 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

CHIEF JUSTICE

POST OFFICE BOX 12248

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

JOHN T. ADAMS

CLERK

THOMAS R. PHILLIPS

TEL: (512) 463-1312

JUSTICES RAUL A. GONZALEZ NATHAN L. HECHT CRAIG T. ENOCH ROSE SPECTOR PRISCILLA R. OWEN JAMES A. BAKER **GREG ABBOTT**

DEBORAH G. HANKINSON

FAX: (512) 463-1365

EXECUTIVE ASS'T WILLIAM L. WILLIS

MAR 1 1 1998

ADMINISTRATIVE ASS'T NADINE SCHNEIDER

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

Mr. L. Lynn Elliott c/o Douglas D. Mulder 2650 Maxus Energy Tower 717 N. Harwood Lock Box 126 Dallas, Texas 75201

Dear Ms. Methvin and Mr. Elliott:

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 Bradley G. Elliott, Judge of the 268th District Court, Richmond, Texas to preside in

Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. L. Lynn Elliott

Sincerely,

SIGNED

John T. Adams Clerk