

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Misc. Docket No. 18-9097

REVOCATION OF LAW LICENSE

The law license issued to Marlene Bovell is revoked, pursuant to the recommendation contained in the attached Order of the Board of Law Examiners. Marlene Bovell must surrender her State Bar Card and Texas law license to the Clerk of the Supreme Court immediately or file an affidavit with the Court stating why she cannot do so.

Consequently, Marlene Bovell is prohibited from practicing law in the State of Texas. She is prohibited from holding herself out as an attorney at law, performing legal services for others, giving legal advice to others, accepting any fee directly or indirectly for legal services, 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), or holding herself out to others or using her name in any manner in conjunction with the words “Attorney at Law,” “Counselor at Law,” or “Lawyer.”

Additionally, Marlene Bovell must provide immediate, written notification of the revocation of her law license to each of her clients. She shall also return any files, papers, unearned monies and other property in her possession belonging to any client or former client to each respective client or former client or to another attorney at the client’s or former client’s request. Marlene Bovell shall file with the State Bar of Texas, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, Post Office Box 12487, Austin TX 78711-2487, within 30 days of the date of this Order

an affidavit stating that all current clients have been notified of the revocation of her license and that all files, papers, monies and other property belonging to all clients and former clients have been returned.

Finally, Marlene Bovell shall, within 30 days after the date of this Order, notify in writing each justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, and chief justice of each court in which she has any pending matter and shall therein identify the style and cause number of the pending matter with the name, address, and telephone numbers of each client she represents in each court. Marlene Bovell shall file with the State Bar of Texas, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, Post Office Box 12487, Austin TX 78711-2487, within 30 days after the date of this Order an affidavit stating that she has notified in writing each justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, and chief justice of each court in which she has any matter pending of the terms of this Order, the style and cause number of the pending matter(s), and the name, address and telephone number of the client(s) she is representing in Court.

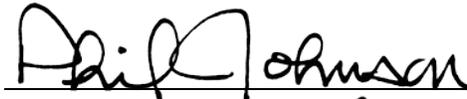
SIGNED this 5th day of July, 2018.



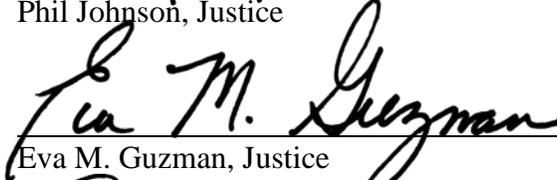
Nathan L. Hecht, Chief Justice



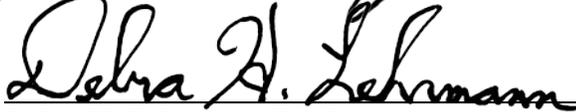
Paul W. Green, Justice



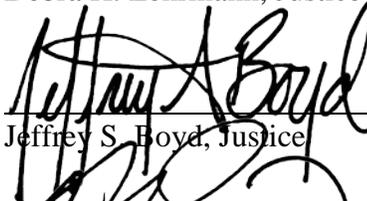
Phil Johnson, Justice



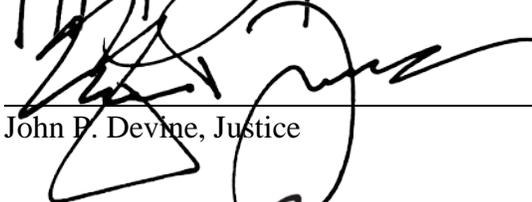
Eva M. Guzman, Justice



Debra H. Lehrmann, Justice



Jeffrey S. Boyd, Justice



John P. Devine, Justice



Jeffrey V. Brown, Justice



James D. Blacklock, Justice

BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF

§

DOCKET No. 04-18-01

MARLENE BOVELL

§

AUSTIN, TEXAS

§

ORDER

On April 13, 2018, a three-member panel of the Board of Law Examiners, C. Alfred Mackenzie presiding, and panel members Sandra Zamora and Al Odom, heard the matter of Marlene Bovell. The Board was represented by Allan K. Cook, general counsel. Although advised of her right to counsel, Ms. Bovell elected to represent herself. The Board considered whether to recommend to the Texas Supreme Court that Ms. Bovell's license to practice law in Texas be withdrawn and cancelled and that her name be struck from the roll of attorneys pursuant to Rule 17(b) of the *Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Texas*.

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Ms. Bovell, a naturalized U.S. citizen, filed her General Application for Admission to the Bar of Texas on Feb. 4, 2016. After two unsuccessful attempts, she passed the bar examination in July 2017. Because the Board possessed no disqualifying information, Ms. Bovell was certified to the Supreme Court and was duly licensed to practice law in Texas on Nov. 3, 2017. On or about Feb. 14, 2018, the Board received information that Ms. Bovell had misrepresented both her employment history and her criminal history on her General Application.

II. JURISDICTION

The Board has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Texas Government Code, Sections 82.004, 82.022, 82.027, 82.028, and 82.030, as well as Rules 1, 2, 4, 10, 15, 17, and 20 of the *Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Texas*, adopted by the Supreme Court of Texas, as amended.

III. FINDINGS OF FACT

After considering the evidence and testimony, the Board finds:

1. The Board gave Ms. Bovell notice of hearing on March 7, 2018, as well as notice that the issue to be considered was whether to recommend to the Texas Supreme Court that her license to practice law in Texas be withdrawn and canceled and that her name be struck from the roll of attorneys pursuant to Board Rule 17(b).

2. Ms. Bovell was hired in August 2006 as acting director of the Cayman Islands Crisis Center, a nonprofit organization providing protection to vulnerable groups from domestic violence.

3. Ms. Bovell's employment as acting director of the Cayman Islands Crisis Center was terminated in December 2006.

4. On June 25, 2007, Ms. Bovell was awarded a bachelor of laws degree from Truman Bodden Law School in Grand Cayman, a school affiliated with the University of Liverpool.

5. At some point between June 2007 and December 2008, Ms. Bovell was charged with three counts of theft totaling \$6,000 from the Cayman Islands Crisis Center.

6. On December 10, 2008, Ms. Bovell was convicted of three counts of theft in Summary Court and sentenced to 21 months in prison.

7. On or about December 4, 2010, the Grand Court dismissed Ms. Bovell's appeal. On or about December 14, 2010, Ms. Bovell returned to prison to complete her sentence.

8. After her release from the penitentiary, Ms. Bovell emigrated to the United States. By April 2012, she was living in Houston, Texas.

9. On January 5, 2015, Ms. Bovell applied for admission to the master of laws program at the University of Houston Law Center.

10. On or about February 4, 2016, Ms. Bovell executed a General Application for Admission to the Bar of Texas to sit for the July 2016 Texas Bar Examination. She executed an affidavit before a notary on January 29, 2016, in which she represented that "I have responded to all inquiries on this form fully and frankly, and all the information contained in my application . . . is true and correct."

11. Question 7 on her July 2016 TBE application asked Ms. Bovell to disclose “all employment, externships, paid and unpaid internships, clerkships, part-time employment, and temporary employment you have held for any period of time since your 18th birthday or during the last ten (10) years, whichever time period is shorter.”

12. Ms. Bovell did not disclose her employment at Cayman Islands Crisis Center or her subsequent termination on her application for admission to the Texas bar.

13. Question 9(b) on her July 2016 TBE application asked, in relevant part: “Have you ever been convicted of an offense, placed on probation, or granted deferred adjudication or any type of pretrial diversion?”

14. Ms. Bovell did not disclose her conviction on three counts of theft from the Cayman Islands Crisis Center or her consequent incarceration on her application for admission to the Texas bar.

15. Question 9(c) on her July 2016 TBE application asked, in relevant part: “Have you, within the last ten (10) years been arrested, cited or ticketed for, or charged with any violation of the law?”

16. Ms. Bovell did not disclose her arrest on three counts of theft from the Cayman Islands Crisis Center or her consequent incarceration on her application to take the July 2017 bar exam. Nor did she disclose these matters on her applications for the July 2016 or February 2017 administrations of the exam.

17. On or about May 13, 2016, the University of Houston awarded Ms. Bovell an LL.M. degree.

18. After failing the July 2016 and February 2017 administrations of the Texas bar exam, Ms. Bovell passed the July 2017 exam and was licensed to practice law in Texas on or about Nov. 3, 2017.

19. Ms. Bovell thereafter applied for and was hired for a position as a misdemeanor prosecutor in the Harris County District Attorney’s Office.

20. Shortly after she began work the Harris County District Attorney’s Office, the district attorney’s staff learned that Ms. Bovell had a felony conviction in

the Cayman Islands. She was terminated by the Harris County District Attorney's Office on Feb. 14, 2018.

21. Ms. Bovell willfully, intentionally, and knowingly failed to respond to all inquiries on her General Application for Admission to the Bar of Texas fully, frankly, truthfully and correctly by failing to disclose her employment and termination from the Cayman Islands Crisis Center and her arrest and conviction for theft from the Crisis Center.

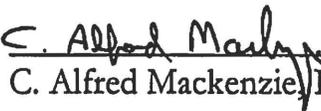
IV. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. At all relevant times, Ms. Bovell had a duty to respond fully, frankly, truthfully and correctly to all inquiries on her General Application for Admission to the Bar of Texas.

2. Ms. Bovell's license to practice law in Texas was obtained fraudulently or by willful failure to comply with the Board's Rules.

IT IS THEREFORE ADJUDGED, ORDERED AND DECREED that the Board shall recommend that Marlene Bovell's license to practice law in Texas be withdrawn and cancelled and that her name be struck from the roll of attorneys.

Signed this 13th day of April 2018.


C. Alfred Mackenzie, Presiding Chair