



**BEFORE THE BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS  
APPOINTED BY  
THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS**

**IN THE MATTER OF** §  
**BUFFY MARIE LAWRENCE** § **CAUSE NO. 54395**  
*State Bar of Texas Card No. 24052821* §

**JUDGMENT OF DISBARMENT**

On the 23rd day of October 2014, the above-styled and numbered disciplinary action was called for hearing before the Board of Disciplinary Appeals. Petitioner Commission for Lawyer Discipline of the State Bar of Texas appeared by attorney and announced ready. Respondent, Buffy Marie Lawrence, answered and entered a general denial and moved for a continuance of the hearing for a second time but failed to appear.

All questions of fact as well as all issues of law were submitted to the Board of Disciplinary Appeals for determination. Having considered the pleadings on file, having received evidence, and having heard the argument of counsel, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals is of the opinion that Petitioner is entitled to entry of the following findings and orders:

**Findings of Fact.** The Board of Disciplinary Appeals finds that:

- (1) Respondent, Buffy Marie Lawrence, has not shown good cause for a continuance.
- (2) Respondent, Buffy Marie Lawrence, State Bar Card Number 24052821, is licensed and currently authorized to practice law in the State of Texas by the Supreme Court of Texas.
- (3) On or about August 10, 2011, Buffy Marie Lawrence was charged by Indictment with Count One – Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1349; Counts Two-Five – Wire Fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1343 and 2; and Count Six – Conspiracy to

Launder Money, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1956(h), in Case No. H-11-575, styled *United States of America v. Walter Ryan Macapaz, Tony David Maldonado, Buffy Marie Lawrence and Lisa Carol Ross*, in the United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, Houston Division.

- (4) On or about April 19, 2013, a Plea Agreement was entered in Case No. H-11-575, styled *United States of America v. Buffy Marie Lawrence*, in the United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, Houston Division, wherein Respondent pled guilty to Count One – Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud.
- (5) On or about April 1, 2014, a Judgment and Sentence was entered in Case No. H-11-575, styled *United States of America v. Buffy Marie Lawrence*, in the United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, Holding Session in Houston, wherein Respondent pled guilty to Count One – Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud and was committed to the custody of the United State Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a total term of 12 months and 1 day. Respondent was ordered upon release from imprisonment to be on supervised release for three years and ordered to pay an assessment of \$100.00. The determination of restitution was deferred until on or before June 25, 2014.
- (6) Respondent, Buffy Marie Lawrence, is the same person as the Buffy Marie Lawrence who is the subject of the Judgment described above.
- (7) Respondent did not appeal her criminal conviction.
- (8) Respondent’s criminal sentence was not fully probated.

**Conclusions of Law.** Based upon the foregoing findings of fact the Board of

Disciplinary Appeals makes the following conclusions of law:

- (1) This Board has jurisdiction to hear and determine this matter. Tex. R. Disciplinary P. 7.08(G) (“TRDP”).
- (2) Respondent, Buffy Marie Lawrence, having been convicted of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, has been convicted for purposes of TRDP 8.04 of an Intentional Crime as defined by TRDP 1.06(T) as well as a Serious Crime as defined by TRDP 1.06(Z).
- (3) The conviction is final. Respondent, Buffy Marie Lawrence, therefore, should be disbarred. TRDP 8.05.

It is therefore, **ORDERED, ADJUDGED** and **DECREED** that Respondent's request for a continuance of the hearing set for October 23, 2014 be, and hereby is, **DENIED**.

It is, accordingly, **ORDERED, ADJUDGED,** and **DECREED** that Respondent, Buffy Marie Lawrence, State Bar Card No. 24052821, be and she is hereby **DISBARRED** from the practice of law in the State of Texas and her license to practice law in this state be and is hereby revoked.

It is further **ORDERED, ADJUDGED** and **DECREED** that Respondent, Buffy Marie Lawrence, is hereafter permanently prohibited, effective immediately, from practicing law in Texas, holding herself out as an attorney at law, performing any legal service for others, accepting any fee directly or indirectly for legal services, appearing as counsel in any proceeding in any Texas court or before any Texas administrative body, or holding herself out to others or using her name, in any manner, in conjunction with the words "attorney," "counselor," or "lawyer."

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Buffy Marie Lawrence, shall notify in writing, no later than thirty (30) days from the date of this Order, each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, and chief justice of each and every court in which Respondent, Buffy Marie Lawrence, has any legal matter pending, if any, of her disbarment, of the style and cause number of the pending matter(s), and of the name, address, and telephone number of the client(s) Respondent is representing in that court. Respondent is also **ORDERED** to mail copies of all such notifications to the Statewide Compliance Monitor, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Buffy Marie Lawrence, shall immediately

notify each of her current clients and opposing counsel, if any, in writing, of her disbarment. In addition to such notification, Respondent is **ORDERED** to return all files, papers, unearned fees paid in advance, and all other monies and properties which are in her possession but which belong to current or former clients, if any, to those respective clients or former clients within thirty (30) days after the date on which this Judgment is signed by the Board. Respondent is further **ORDERED** to file with Statewide Compliance Monitor, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711, within the same thirty (30) days, an affidavit stating that all current clients and opposing counsel have been notified of her disbarment and that all files, papers, unearned fees paid in advance, and all other monies and properties belonging to clients and former clients have been returned as ordered herein. If Respondent should be unable to return any file, papers, money or other property to any client or former client, Respondent's affidavit shall state with particularity the efforts made by Respondent with respect to each particular client and the cause of her inability to return to said client any file, paper, money or other property. Respondent is also **ORDERED** to mail a copy of said affidavit and copies of all notification letters to clients, to the Statewide Compliance Monitor, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Buffy Marie Lawrence, immediately surrender her Texas law license and permanent State Bar Card to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, Texas 78711, for transmittal to the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas.

Signed this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October 2014.

  
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**CHAIR PRESIDING**