



**BEFORE THE BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS  
Appointed By  
THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS**

**JAMES OKORO OKORAFOR**

**V.**

**COMMISSION FOR  
LAWYER DISCIPLINE OF THE  
STATE BAR OF TEXAS**

§  
§  
§  
§  
§  
§

**CAUSE NO. 44357**

**JUDGMENT PARTIALLY AFFIRMING AND PARTIALLY REVERSING  
EVIDENTIARY JUDGMENT AND RENDERING SANCTION**

On April 20, 2012 the Board of Disciplinary Appeals heard argument and considered the appeal of James Okoro Okorafor from the Judgment of Active Suspension signed October 21, 2010 by the Evidentiary Panel of the State Bar of Texas District 4F Grievance Committee in Cause Nos. H0060724640 (Lewis), H0030826302 (Juranek), and H0030826344 (Briggs). Having heard argument and considered the record and briefs on appeal, the Board finds that the judgment should be affirmed in part, reversed in part, and that the evidence regarding sanction has been fully developed below and that remand is unnecessary. Therefore, the Board renders sanction. TEX. GOV'T CODE § 81.0751(b)(3); BODA INTERNAL P. R. 4.10(a); *In re State Bar of Texas*, 113 S.W.3d 730, 734 (Texas 2003).

The Commission for Lawyer Discipline of the State Bar of Texas has conceded that the evidentiary panel's finding that Okorafor violated Texas Disciplinary Rule of Professional Conduct 4.01(a) was error as a matter of law.

The Commission further concedes that the award of attorney's fees to the State Bar of Texas was excessive because the panel did not find that Okorafor committed any misconduct in the Lewis and Juranek complaints and because the Rule 4.01(a) finding was error.

The Board finds that there is substantial evidence that Okorafor violated TDRPC 8.04(a)(3) and **AFFIRMS** that finding.

The Board finds that the panel's conclusion that Okorafor violated TDRPC 4.01(a) was error as a matter of law and **REVERSES** that finding.

The sanction of two-year active suspension is hereby **REVERSED**. The ancillary sanction of attorney's fees and direct expenses in the amount of \$2,473.00 is **REVERSED**.

Respondent is hereby actively **SUSPENDED** from the practice of law for the period of time Beginning December 1, 2010 and ending the date of this judgment.

Respondent is **ORDERED** to pay attorney's fees to the State Bar of Texas as an ancillary sanction in the amount of \$1,000.00.

In addition to paying the attorney's fees ordered, Respondent must comply with all mandatory requirements of the Supreme Court of Texas and the State Bar of Texas with respect to dues, taxes, fees, and MCLE to have his license returned.

**SIGNED** this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2012.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHAIR PRESIDING**