

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

IN THE MATTER OF	§	
PIPER A. ROUNTREE	§	DOCKET NO. 39905
STATE BAR CARD NO. 17323050	§	

JUDGMENT OF DISBARMENT

On the 12th day of December 2008, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals considered the Motion for Entry of Judgment of Disbarment filed in the above case by Petitioner, Commission for Lawyer Discipline of the State Bar of Texas, against Respondent, Piper A. Rountree. The Board finds that:

- (1) It has continuing jurisdiction of this matter pursuant to Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure 8.05 ("TRDP");
- (2) The Court of Appeals of Virginia affirmed Respondent Piper A. Rountree's criminal conviction and issued its Mandate indicating that the decision was final on or about July 24, 2007;
- (3) The Supreme Court of the United States denied Respondent Piper A. Rountree's Petition for Writ of Certiorari to the Supreme Court of Virginia on October 6, 2008.
- (4) Petitioner filed its Motion for Entry of Judgment of Disbarment on or about July 2, 2008, and served same on Respondent in accordance with TRDP 8.05;
- (5) Respondent's conviction for the commission of an Intentional Crime as defined by TRDP 1.06(T), for which she was sentenced in the Circuit Court of Henrico County, has become final and is not subject to appeal;
- (6) Petitioner's Motion for Entry of Judgment of Disbarment should be granted.

Interlocutory Suspension

Following a hearing on the 13th day of July 2007, at which Petitioner Commission for Lawyer Discipline of the State Bar of Texas appeared by attorney and announced ready and Respondent, Piper A. Rountree, although duly cited to appear and having been given notice of the hearing, failed to answer or appear and wholly made default, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals

entered an Interlocutory Order of Suspension on or about July 13, 2007, which included the following findings of fact:

- (1) Respondent, Piper A. Rountree, State Bar Card Number 17323050, is licensed in the State of Texas, but is administratively suspended from the practice of law for failure to comply with Minimum Continuing Legal Education requirements.
- (2) On or about February 26, 2005, a Sentencing Order was entered in the Circuit Court of Henrico County, in Case No. CR04-5364-00 styled *Commonwealth of Virginia v. Piper Ann Rountree* finding the Respondent guilty of First Degree Murder/F in violation of § 18.2-32 of the Code of Virginia and also finding the Respondent guilty of Use of a Firearm during the Commission of a Felony/F in violation of § 18.2-53.1 of the Code of Virginia in Case No. CR04-5365-00.
- (3) In Case No. CR04-5364-00F, the Respondent was sentenced to incarceration with the Virginia Department of Corrections for the term of life. In Case No. CR04-5365-00F, the Respondent was sentenced to incarceration with the Virginia Department of Corrections for the term of three (3) years. The Respondent was further ordered to pay costs of \$3,545.00.
- (4) Respondent, Piper A. Rountree, is the same person as the Piper Ann Rountree who is the subject of the Sentencing Order described above.
- (5) Respondent has appealed the criminal convictions.
- (6) Respondent's criminal sentence is not fully probated.
- (7) Respondent was served with the Petition for Compulsory Discipline on May 7, 2007 by personal service, and the affidavit of service was filed with the Board on May 18, 2007.

and conclusions of law:

- (1) The Board has jurisdiction to hear and determine this matter. TRDP 7.08(G).
- (2) Respondent has been convicted of Intentional Crimes as defined by TRDP 1.06(T) which are also Serious Crimes as defined by TRDP 1.06(Z).
- (3) Having been convicted of Intentional and Serious crimes, Respondent, Piper A. Rountree, should be suspended as an attorney licensed to practice law in Texas during the appeal of her convictions. TRDP 8.04.
- (4) In the event that either conviction of Respondent, Piper A. Rountree, becomes final, Respondent, Piper A. Rountree, should be disbarred. TRDP 8.05.

Disbarment

The Board has determined that disbarment of the Respondent is appropriate pursuant to TRDP 8.05. It is, therefore, accordingly, **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED** that Respondent Piper A. Rountree, State Bar No. 17323050, 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, Piper A. Rountree, 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 or in any representative capacity 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.”

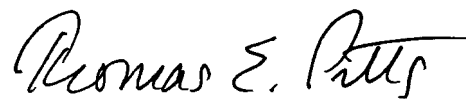
It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Piper A. Rountree, not later than thirty (30) days from the date of the entry of this judgment, shall notify in writing each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, and chief justice of each and every court, if any, in which Respondent has any legal 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 Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, Statewide Compliance Monitor, State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, Texas 78711.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Piper A. Rountree, shall immediately notify each of her current clients, 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 this Board, within the same thirty (30) days, an affidavit stating that all current clients have been notified of his 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 Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, Statewide Compliance Monitor, State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, Texas 78711

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Piper A. Rountree, if she has not already done so, immediately surrender her Texas law license and permanent State Bar Card to the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, Statewide Compliance Monitor, State Bar of Texas, P. O. Box 12487, Austin, Texas 78711, for transmittal to the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas.

Signed this 23rd day of December 2008.



CHAIRMAN PRESIDING