



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

IN THE MATTER OF	§	
JESSICA LYNN SIEGEL	§	CAUSE NO. 53875
<i>State Bar of Texas Card No. 24013509</i>	§	

**INTERLOCUTORY ORDER OF SUSPENSION
AND ORDER DENYING CONTINUANCE**

On the 25th day of July 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, Jessica Lynn Siegel, filed her answer on the day of the hearing and moved for a continuance. Although duly cited to appear and having notice of the hearing, she did not appear. The Commission for Lawyer Discipline opposed the continuance. Finding no good cause to grant the continuance, the motion for continuance is hereby DENIED.

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, Jessica Lynn Siegel, whose State Bar Card number is 24013509, is licensed and currently authorized by the Supreme Court of Texas to practice law in the State of Texas.

- (2) On or about November 13, 2012, Respondent was charged by Indictment with Tampering with a Governmental Record, in Cause No. 12-03-02754-CR, styled *The State of Texas v. Jessica Sekerka Siegel*, in the 221st District Court of Montgomery County, Texas.
- (3) On or about October 31, 2013, a Judgment and Order was entered in Case No. 12-03-02754-CR, styled *The State of Texas v. Jessica Sekerka Siegel*, in the 221st District Court of Montgomery County, Texas, wherein Respondent was found guilty of Tampering with a Governmental Record and was sentenced to confinement in the State Jail Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for a period of two (2) years, and in addition to such confinement, was assessed a fine of \$5,000 (Probated). The imposition of the sentence of confinement only was ordered suspended and she was placed on community supervision for a period of four (4) years.
- (4) Respondent, Jessica Lynn Siegel, admits that she is the same person as the Jessica Sekerka Siegel who is the subject of the criminal case described above.
- (5) Respondent has appealed the criminal conviction.
- (6) Respondent does not contest that she has been convicted of an Intentional Crime and convicted of a Serious Crime as defined in the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure 1.06T and 1.06Z ("TRDP"); TRDP Part VIII.
- (7) Respondent acknowledges the jury's verdict of guilty in her criminal case but maintains her right to challenge the findings, verdict, and conviction in all respects on appeal.

Conclusions of Law. Based upon the foregoing findings of facts the Board of Disciplinary

Appeals makes the following conclusions of law:

- (1) This Board has jurisdiction to hear and determine this matter. TRDP 7.08(G);
- (2) Respondent, Jessica Lynn Siegel, having been convicted of Tampering with a Governmental Record, has been convicted of an Intentional Crime as defined by TRDP 1.06(T).
- (3) Respondent has also been convicted of a Serious Crime as defined by TRDP 1.06(Z).

- (4) Having been found guilty and convicted of an Intentional and Serious Crime and having appealed such conviction, Respondent, Jessica Lynn Siegel, should have her license to practice law in Texas suspended during the appeal of her criminal conviction. TRDP 8.04.
- (5) The Board retains jurisdiction to enter a final judgment in this matter when the criminal appeal is final.

It is, accordingly, ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED that Respondent, Jessica Lynn Siegel, State Bar Card No. 24013509, is hereby SUSPENDED from the practice of law in the State of Texas effective immediately as of the date of this order and continuing hereafter until further order of this Board.

It is further ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that Respondent, Jessica Lynn Siegel, during said suspension is hereby 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 not completed before the date of this order, 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, Jessica Lynn Siegel, 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, Jessica Lynn Siegel, has any legal matter pending, if any, of her suspension, 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, Jessica Lynn Siegel, shall immediately notify each of her current clients and opposing counsel, if any, in writing, of her suspension. 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 of this Order. Respondent is further ORDERED to file with the 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 either (a) that all current clients and opposing counsel have been notified of his suspension 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 or (b) that Respondent has no current clients, files, or papers, and that any unearned fees paid in advance or other monies or properties belonging to clients have previously been returned to the appropriate client. If Respondent is 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 all notification letters 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, Jessica Lynn Siegel, immediately surrender her Texas law license and permanent State Bar Card to the Statewide Compliance Monitor, Office of the Chief Disciplinary, State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711, for

transmittal to the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas.

It is further ORDERED that this Order is interlocutory and that the Board retains jurisdiction to enter a final judgment when the appeal of the criminal conviction is final. *In the Matter of Mercier*, 242 SW 3d 46 (Tex. 2007).

It is further ORDERED that Respondent shall promptly notify the Board and the State Bar of Texas Chief Disciplinary Counsel when the appeal of the criminal conviction is final.

It is further ORDERED that the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas shall monitor the status of the appeal of the criminal conviction on at least a quarterly basis and promptly file an appropriate motion for entry of final judgment with the Board when the appeal of the criminal conviction is final.

Signed this 30th day of July 2014.



CHAIR PRESIDING