

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

IN THE MATTER OF	§	
RONALD LEON SUTTON	§	CAUSE NO. 47264
STATE BAR NO. 19536000	§	

JUDGMENT OF SUSPENSION

On the 28th day of January 2011, 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, Ronald Leon Sutton, appeared in person and with counsel and announced ready. All issues of fact and questions 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 enters the following findings and orders:

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

- (1) Respondent, Ronald Leon Sutton, State Bar Card Number 19536000, is licensed but not currently authorized to practice law in the State of Texas by the Supreme Court of Texas because he has taken inactive status.
- (2) Respondent was charged by Indictment with Misapplication of Fiduciary/Financial Property \$20,000-\$100,000 in Cause No. 2009-1851, styled *The State of Texas v. Ron Sutton*, in the District Court of Kimble County, Texas.
- (3) On or about April 12, 2010, Defendant's Plea of Guilty, Waiver, Stipulation and Judicial Confession was entered in Cause No. 2009-1851 counts one and two, styled *The State of Texas v. Ron Sutton*, in the 198th Judicial District Court of Kimble County, Texas, wherein Sutton pled guilty to two counts of Reckless Misapplication of Fiduciary/Financial Property \$20,000-\$100,000, Third Degree Felonies.
- (4) On or about May 21, 2010, an Order of Deferred Adjudication was entered in Cause No. 2009-1851 Count One, styled *The State of*

Texas v. Ron Sutton, in the 198th District Court of Kimble County, Texas, wherein Respondent pled guilty to Reckless Misapplication of Fiduciary/Financial Property \$20,000-\$100,000, a Third Degree Felony, and was sentenced to two years deferred adjudication, ordered to pay \$20,000 in restitution and \$342 in court costs.

- (5) On or about May 21, 2010, an Order of Deferred Adjudication was entered in Cause No. 2009-1851 Count Two, styled *The State of Texas v. Ron Sutton*, in the 198th District Court of Kimble County, Texas, wherein Respondent pled guilty to Reckless Misapplication of Fiduciary/Financial Property \$20,000-\$100,000, a Third Degree Felony, and was sentenced to two years deferred adjudication.
- (6) Respondent, Ronald Leon Sutton, is the same person as the Ron Sutton who is the subject of the Judgment described above.
- (7) An Order of Discharge and Dismissal was signed on January 12, 2011 in Cause No. 2009-1851 in the 198th District Judicial Court of Kimble County, Texas.
- (8) Respondent's criminal sentence was 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. Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure 7.08(G), 8.01, and 8.03 ("TRDP").
- (2) Respondent, Ronald Leon Sutton, having pled guilty and having been placed on deferred adjudication for Intentional Crimes, has been convicted for purposes of TRDP 8.04 of an Intentional Crime as defined by TRDP 1.06(T). Said crime is also a Serious Crime as defined by TRDP 1.06(Z). This is a fully probated sentence for purposes of TRDP 8.06.
- (3) Respondent, Ronald Leon Sutton, should be suspended for the term of his criminal probation as originally assessed and, in the event that the above-described criminal probation of Respondent, Ronald Leon Sutton, is revoked, Respondent should be disbarred. TRDP 8.06.

It is, accordingly, ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Respondent, Ronald Leon Sutton, State Bar Card No. 19536000, be and he is hereby SUSPENDED from the practice

of law in the State of Texas and his license to practice law in the State of Texas for a period beginning effective the date of this judgment and ending May 21, 2012.

It is further ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that Respondent, Ronald Leon Sutton, during said suspension is prohibited from practicing law in Texas, holding himself 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 himself out to others or using his name, in any manner, in conjunction with the words “attorney,” “counselor,” or “lawyer.”

It is further ORDERED that Respondent, Ronald Leon Sutton, not later than thirty (30) days after the signing of this order 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, Ronald Leon Sutton, has any legal matter pending, if any, of his 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, Ronald Leon Sutton, shall immediately notify each of his current clients, if any, in writing, of his 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 his 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 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. 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 his 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, Ronald Leon Sutton, immediately surrender his Texas law license and permanent State Bar Card to the Statewide Compliance Monitor, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, 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, in the event that the above-described criminal probation of Respondent, Ronald Leon Sutton, is revoked, Respondent, Ronald Leon Sutton, shall be DISBARRED upon the filing by the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of an appropriate motion supported by certified copies of court documents showing that such criminal probation has been revoked.

Signed this 8th day of February 2011.



CHAIR PRESIDING