

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

IN THE MATTER OF §

NAJMEH VAHID-DASTJERDI § CAUSE NO. 53874

State Bar of Texas Card No. 24075200 §

JUDGMENT OF DISBARMENT

On the 2nd day of May 2014, the above-styled and numbered disciplinary action was called for hearing before the Board of Disciplinary Appeals. Petitioner appeared by attorney and announced ready. Respondent, Najmeh Vahid-Dastjerdi, although duly cited to appear, failed to appear and wholly made default. All matters of fact as well as all matters 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, Najmeh Vahid-Dastjerdi, State Bar of Texas Card Number 24075200, is licensed and authorized to practice law in the State of Texas by the Supreme Court of Texas.
- (2) On or about December 15, 2010, Najmeh Vahid-Dastjerdi was charged by Indictment with Count 1- Conspiracy to Defraud the United States, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §371 and Count 2 Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h), in Case No. 10 CR 506-BR, styled *United States of America v. Hossein Lahiji; Najmeh Vahid; and Ahmad Iranshahi, a.k.a. "Farhad;*" in the United States District Court for the District of Oregon, Portland Division.
- (3) On or about December 3, 2013, an Amended Judgment in a Criminal Case was entered in Case No. 3:10-CR-00506-02KI, styled *United States of*

America v. Najmeh Vahid, in the United States District Court for the District of Oregon, wherein Respondent was found guilty of Count 1-Conspiracy to Defraud the Treasury Department of the United States, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371 and Count 2 - Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h) and was committed to the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a total term of twelve (12) months and one (1) day on each count, to be served concurrently. Respondent was ordered upon release from imprisonment to be on supervised release for three (3) years, ordered to pay an assessment of \$200.00, a fine of \$200,000.00 and restitution of \$973,503.00.

- (4) On or about May 8, 2013, Najmeh Vahid-Dastjerdi was charged by Third Superseding Indictment (Exhibit 3) with Count 1- Conspiracy to Commit Healthcare Fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§1347, 1349 and 2, Count 2- Healthcare Fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§1347 and 2, Count 3- Healthcare Fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§1347 and 2, Count 4- Conspiracy to Violate the Iranian Sanctions, in violation of 50 U.S.C. §1705(a) and (c), Count 5- Failure to File Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts, 31 U.S.C. §§ 5314 and 5322, and Count 6- Failure to File Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts, 31 U.S.C. §§ 5314 and 5322, in Case No. H-11-030-S2, styled *United States of America v. Hossein Lahiji, M.D. and Najmeh Vahid Lahiji, a.k.a. Najmeh Vahid-Dastjerdi, Defendants,* in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division.
- (5) On or about January 24, 2014, a Judgment in a Criminal Case (Exhibit 4) was entered in Case No. 4:11CR00030-002, styled *United States of America v. Najmeh Vahid Lahiji*, in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Holding Session in Houston, wherein Respondent pled guilty to Count 1SSS Conspiracy to Commit Healthcare Fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§1347 and 1349, and Count 4SSS Conspiracy to Violate the Iranian Sanctions, in violation of 50 U.S.C. §1705(a) and (c), and was committed to the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a total term of twelve (12) months and one (1) day on each count, to be served concurrently. Respondent was ordered upon release from imprisonment to be on supervised release for three (3) years, ordered to pay an assessment of \$200.00, a fine of \$1,250,000.00 and restitution of \$703,524.74.
- (6) Respondent, Najmeh Vahid-Dastjerdi, is the same person as the Najmeh Vahid and the Najmeh Vahid Lahiji who is the subject of the Judgments described above.

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).

(2) Respondent, Najmeh Vahid-Dastjerdi, has been convicted for purposes of

TRDP 8.04 of Intentional Crimes as defined by TEX. R. DISCIPLINARY P.

1.06(T). Such crimes are as well Serious Crimes as defined by TEX. R.

DISCIPLINARY P. 1.06(Z).

(3) The convictions are final. Respondent, Najmeh Vahid-Dastjerdi, therefore,

should be disbarred. TEX. R. DISCIPLINARY P. 8.05.

It is, accordingly, ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Respondent, Najmeh

Vahid-Dastjerdi, State Bar Card No. 24075200, 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, Najmeh Vahid-

Dastjerdi, 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, Najmeh Vahid-Dastjerdi, shall notify in writing,

no later than thirty (30) days from the date of this Order, each and every justice of the peace,

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judge, magistrate, and chief justice of each and every court in which Respondent, Najmeh Vahid-

Dastjerdi, 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, Najmeh Vahid-Dastjerdi, 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 this Board, 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.

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It is further ORDERED that Respondent, Najmeh Vahid-Dastjerdi, 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 ______ day of May 2014.

HAIR PRESIDING

BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS