

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

IN THE MATTER OF	§	
ERIK JAMES BURRIS	§	CAUSE NO. 59817
STATE BAR CARD NO. 24061360	§	

JUDGMENT OF DISBARMENT

On the 28th day of October, 2022, 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, Erik James Burris. The Board finds that:

- (1) The Board retains jurisdiction to enter a final judgment in this matter. TEX. R. DISCIPLINARY P.R. 8.04–.06.
- (2) On January 26, 2018, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals entered an Interlocutory Order of Suspension, finding that on December 16, 2015, a General Court-Martial Order Number 10 was entered by the Department of the Army, Headquarters, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, wherein Respondent, Erik James Burris, was found guilty of Charge I, Specifications 1, 2, 4, and 5: violation of the UCMJ, Article 128, Assault; Charge II, Specifications 2 and 4: violation of the UCMJ, Article 120, Rape, Sexual Assault, and Other Sexual Misconduct; Charge IV, Specification 2: violation of the UCMJ, Article 134, General Article; and Additional Charge II and its Specification: Violation of the UCMJ, Article 125, Sodomy; and that these offenses are Intentional and Serious Crimes under TEXAS RULE OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE 1.06(V) and (GG). The Interlocutory Order of Suspension is incorporated by reference herein.
- (3) The United States Army Court of Criminal Appeals affirmed Respondent’s conviction and sentence on or about February 8, 2019.
- (4) Petitioner filed its Motion for Entry of Judgment of Disbarment on or about August 26, 2022 and served same on Respondent in accordance with TEXAS RULE OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE 8.05.
- (5) Respondent was served by hand at the Naval Consolidated Brig, Miramar on September 14, 2022 at 10:15 a.m. by a private process server. Petitioner filed proof of service with the Board on October 12, 2022.

- (6) Despite being duly served, Respondent failed to file a verified denial contesting finality within ten days of service. TEX. RULES DISCIPLINARY P. R. 8.05; *see* BODA INTERNAL PROCEDURAL RULE 6.02(b)(2).
- (7) Respondent's conviction for the commission of an Intentional Crime as defined by TEXAS RULE OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE 1.06(V) and for a Serious Crime as defined by TEXAS RULE OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE 1.06(GG), for which he was sentenced by the Department of the Army, Headquarters, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, has become final and is not subject to further appeal. BODA INTERNAL PROCEDURAL RULE 6.02(a).
- (8) Petitioner's Motion for Entry of Judgment of Disbarment shall be granted. TEX. RULES DISCIPLINARY P. R. 8.05.

Disbarment

The Board has determined that disbarment of the Respondent is appropriate. It is, therefore, accordingly, **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED** that Respondent, Erik James Burris, State Bar No. 24061360, be and hereby is **DISBARRED** from the practice of law in the State of Texas, and his license to practice law in this state be and hereby is revoked.

It is further **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED** that Respondent, Erik James Burris, is prohibited from practicing law in Texas, holding himself out as an attorney at law, performing any legal services 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 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, Erik James Burris, shall immediately notify each of his current clients, if any, in writing of this disbarment. In addition to such notification, Respondent is **ORDERED** to return any files, papers, unearned monies, and other property, if any, which belongs to clients and former clients and is in Respondent's possession or control, to the

respective clients or former clients or to another attorney at the client's or former client's request, within thirty (30) days of the date of this judgment.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Erik James Burris, shall file with the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701) within thirty (30) days of the signing of this judgment by the Board, an affidavit stating that all current clients have been notified of Respondent's disbarment and that all files, papers, monies, and other property belonging to all clients and former clients have been returned as ordered herein. If Respondent should be unable to return any files, papers, monies, or other property requested by 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 files, paper, monies, or other property.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Erik James Burris, shall, on or before thirty (30) days from the signing of this judgment by the Board, notify in writing each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, administrative judge or officer, and chief justice of each and every court or tribunal in which Respondent has any matter pending, if any, of the terms of this judgment, the style and cause number of the pending matter(s), and the name, address, and telephone number of the client(s) Respondent is representing.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Erik James Burris, shall file with the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701) within thirty (30) days of the signing of this judgment by the Board, an affidavit stating that each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, administrative judge or officer, and chief justice has received written notice of the terms of this judgment.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Erik James Burris, shall immediately surrender his 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.

It is further **ORDERED** that a certified copy of the Petition for Compulsory Discipline on file herein, along with a copy of this Judgment, be sent to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, Texas 78711.

Signed this 31st day of October 2022.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin H.", is written over a horizontal line.

CHAIR PRESIDING