



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

**IN THE MATTER OF
DERRICK DUANE CORNEJO
STATE BAR CARD NO. 24048049**

§
§
§

CAUSE NO. 69445

JUDGMENT OF DISBARMENT

On the 31st day of January, 2025, the above-styled and numbered disciplinary action was called for hearing before the Board of Disciplinary Appeals. Petitioner, the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, appeared by attorney and announced ready. Respondent, Derrick Duane Cornejo, appeared in person through attorney of record, and announced ready. All questions of fact and 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, Derrick Duane Cornejo, Bar Card Number 24048049, is licensed and authorized to practice law in the State of Texas by the Supreme Court of Texas.
- (2) On December 20, 2023, the Supreme Court, State of Colorado, through the Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge, entered the Hearing Board's Opinion Imposing Sanctions under Colorado Rule of Civil Procedure 242.31, dated June 13, 2023, in the original proceeding styled *The People of the State of Colorado v. Derrick Duane Cornejo*, #29438, Case Number 21PDJ085 (consolidated with 22PDJ026 and 22PDJ057). In that Opinion, the Hearing Board concluded that Respondent violated Rules 1.3, 1.15A(a),

3.4(c), 8.4(b), and 8.4(c) of the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct and imposed the sanction of disbarment, stating:

Respondent's cavalier disregard of court appearances and directives degrades the dignity and authority of the judicial system. His criminal conviction for knowingly neglecting his elderly mother reflects poorly on his decision making. But it is his fraudulent endorsement of two client checks, temporary conversion of his client's funds, and pattern of trust account mismanagement that render him utterly unfit to continue representing clients. Such misconduct has no place in the legal profession and warrants disbarment.

- (3) On August 2, 2023, the Supreme Court, State of Colorado, through the Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge, entered an Order and Notice of Disbarment in the matter styled *The People of the State of Colorado v. Derrick Duane Cornejo*, #29438, Case Number 21PDJ085 (consolidated with 22PDJ026 and 22PDJ057), which states in pertinent part:

From April 18-20, 2023, the Hearing Board in this matter held a disciplinary hearing under C.R.C.P. 242.30. On June 13, 2023, the Hearing Board issued an "Opinion Imposing Sanctions Under C.R.C.P. 242.31," disbarring Derrick Duane Cornejo ("Respondent") from the practice of law.

Under C.R.C.P. 242.31 (a)(6), the Presiding Officer ORDERS that DERRICK DUANE CORNEJO, attorney registration number 29438, is DISBARRED from the practice of law in the State of Colorado, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. Respondent MUST NOT engage in the practice of law or aid others to practice law in violation of Colo. RPC 5.5(b).

- (4) On February 7, 2024, the Colorado Supreme Court entered an Order and Mandate in Supreme Court Case No: 2023SA160, Original Proceeding in Discipline, Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge, 2021PD085, 2022PD026, 2022PD057, *In the Matter of Attorney-Respondent: Derrick Cornejo*., in which the Court affirmed without opinion the Opinion Imposing Sanctions under C.R.C.P. 242.31 entered by the Hearing Board.
- (5) Respondent, Derrick Duane Cornejo, is the same person as Derrick Cornejo, who is the subject of the Orders and Opinion 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. RULES DISCIPLINARY P. R. 7.08(H), 9.03.
- (2) Respondent filed a timely answer but failed to establish a defense under Texas Rule of Disciplinary Procedure 9.04 by clear and convincing evidence.
- (3) Reciprocal discipline identical, to the extent practicable, to that imposed by the Supreme Court of Colorado, is warranted in this case. TEX. RULES DISCIPLINARY P. R. 9.03.

It is, accordingly, **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED** that Respondent, Derrick Duane Cornejo, State Bar Card No. 24048049, 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, Derrick Duane Cornejo, 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 at law,” “attorney,” “counselor at law,” or “lawyer.”

It is further **ORDERED** Respondent, Derrick Duane Cornejo, shall immediately notify each of his current clients in writing of this disbarment. In addition to such notification, Respondent is **ORDERED** to return any files, papers, unearned monies and other property, 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, Derrick Duane Cornejo, 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 file, 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 file, paper, money, or other property.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Derrick Duane Cornejo, 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 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, Derrick Duane Cornejo, 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, Derrick Duane Cornejo, shall 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 this Judgment of Disbarment shall be made a matter of public record and that notice of this disciplinary action shall be published in the *Texas Bar Journal*.

Signed this 5th day of February 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Schmitz', is written above a horizontal line.

CHAIR PRESIDING

Board members Scott Fredricks, David Iglesias, and Courtney Schmitz did not participate in this decision.