

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

IN THE MATTER OF §
GEORGE W. CRAWFORD, II § CAUSE NO. 68195
STATE BAR CARD NO. 05038500 §

## JUDGMENT OF SUSPENSION

On the 27th day of October, 2023, the above-styled and numbered reciprocal disciplinary action was called for hearing by submission based on the documents and pleadings before the Board of Disciplinary Appeals. Respondent declined to file a responsive pleading in this matter and waived his right to hearing on the Petition for Reciprocal Discipline. All questions of fact and all issues of law were submitted to the Board of Disciplinary Appeals for determination. Having considered the pleadings on file, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals is of the opinion that Petitioner is entitled to entry of the following findings, conclusions, and orders:

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

- (1) Respondent, George W. Crawford, II, whose Bar Card No. is 05038500 is an attorney licensed but not currently authorized by the Supreme Court of Texas to practice law in the State of Texas.
- (2) On or about December 9, 2022, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals Board on Professional Responsibility issued a Report and Recommendation in the case styled *In the Matter of George W. Crawford, II, Respondent, A Member of the Bar of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals (Bar Registration No. 311639)*, Board Docket No. 15-BD-108, Bar Docket No. 2013-D022, which states in pertinent part:

Before the Board is the Ad Hoc Hearing Committee's Report and Recommendation, finding by clear and convincing evidence that Respondent, George W. Crawford, II, violated Rules 3.1, 3.3(a)(1), 3.4(c), 8.4(a), 8.4(c), and 8.4(d) of the District of Columbia Rules of Professional Conduct (the "Rule" or "Rules") based on misconduct related to a civil judgment against him and a subsequent settlement agreement. The Committee recommended that Respondent be suspended for six months, with reinstatement conditioned upon a showing of fitness, payment of any outstanding sanctions, and compliance with any pending court orders. The Board finds that Respondent violated each of the charged Rules and adopts the Hearing Committee's recommended sanction.

(3) On or about March 16, 2023, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals issued an Opinion and Order in Case No. 22-BG-0937, *In Re George W. Crawford, II, Respondent, A Suspended Member of the Bar of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals (Bar Registration No. 311639)*, On Report and Recommendation of the Board on Professional Responsibility (DDN: 2013-D022), which states in pertinent part:

PER CURIAM: The Board on Professional Responsibility recommends that respondent George W. Crawford, II, be suspended for six months from the practice of law in this jurisdiction with reinstatement conditioned upon a showing of fitness, the payment of any outstanding sanctions, and compliance with any pending court orders. Mr. Crawford was charged with violating numerous Rules of Professional Conduct arising from his failure to pay a judgment entered against him and to satisfy a subsequent settlement agreement, which led to the imposition of sanctions and Mr. Crawford's incarceration for his failure to purge a finding of civil contempt. Mr. Crawford's misconduct included violations of Rule 3.1 (defending a proceeding, and asserting or controverting an issue therein, although there was no basis in law for doing so that was not frivolous); Rule 3.3(a) (knowingly making false statements of fact to a tribunal or failing to correct false statements of material fact previously made to the tribunal); Rule 3.4(c) (knowingly disobeying an obligation under the rules of a tribunal except for an open refusal based on an assertion that no valid obligation exists); Rule 8.4(a) (violating or attempting to violate the Rules, knowingly assisting or inducing another to do so, or doing so through the acts of another); Rule 8.4(c) (engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation); and Rule 8.4(d) (engaging in conduct that seriously interfered with the administration of justice). Mr. Crawford has not filed any exception to the Board's Report and Recommendation, nor has he filed the required D.C. Bar R. XI,

§ 14(g) affidavit after the court imposed an interim suspension on February 15, 2023.

. . . Because no exceptions have been filed, we accept the Board's recommendation of a six-month suspension with a fitness requirement for Mr. Crawford's misconduct. Thus we predicate Mr. Crawford's reinstatement upon a showing of fitness, the payment of any outstanding sanctions, and compliance with pending court orders.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED that respondent George W. Crawford, II, is hereby suspended for six months from the practice of law in this jurisdiction and, as a condition of reinstatement, he must establish fitness to practice law, and demonstrate that he has paid any outstanding sanction awards and complied with any pending court orders in *First Washington Insurance Co. v. Kelly*, No. 2007 CA 005890 B; *Crawford v. First Washington Insurance Co.*, No. 2010 CA 006309 B; and *In re Crawford*, No. 2012 CCC 022.

- (4) Respondent, George W. Crawford, II, is the same person as the George W. Crawford, II, who is the subject of the Supreme Court Order entered by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals; and
- (5) The Order entered in the District of Columbia Court of Appeals is final.

**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. TEX. RULES DISCIPLINARY P. R. 7.08(H); 9.01–.04.
- (2) Reciprocal discipline, identical to the extent practicable, to that imposed by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, is warranted in this case.
- (3) Respondent should be actively suspended from the practice of law for a period of six (6) months.

It is, accordingly, **ORDERED**, **ADJUDGED**, and **DECREED** that Respondent George W. Crawford, II, State Bar Card No. 05038500, is hereby SUSPENDED from the practice of law in Texas for a period of six (6) months beginning <u>November 1, 2023</u>, and extending through <u>April 30, 2023</u>.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent George W. Crawford, II, during said suspension

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 federal 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 at law," "attorney," "counselor at law,"

"Esquire," "Esq.," or "lawyer."

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent George W. Crawford, II, shall, within thirty (30)

days of the signing of this judgment, 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, if

any, in which Respondent 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 or tribunal. Respondent is **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 George W. Crawford, II, shall, within thirty (30)

days of the signing of this judgment, 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), an

affidavit stating that Respondent has notified 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 in that court or tribunal.

Judgment of Suspension George W. Crawford, II It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent George W. Crawford, II, shall, within thirty (30)

days of the date of this judgment, notify each of Respondent's current clients and opposing

counsel, if any, in writing, of his suspension. In addition to such notification, Respondent George

W. Crawford, II, 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, if requested.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent George W. Crawford, II, shall within thirty (30)

days of the date of this judgment, file with the State Bar of Texas, Statewide Compliance Monitor,

P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701), an affidavit

stating that all current clients and opposing counsel have been notified of Respondent's suspension

and that all files, papers, monies and other property belonging to all current clients have been

returned as ordered herein. If Respondent should be unable to return any file, papers, money, 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 George W. Crawford, II, shall, within thirty (30)

days of the date of this judgment, 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 Suspension shall be made a matter of public

record and that notice of this disciplinary action shall be published in the *Texas Bar Journal*.

Judgment of Suspension George W. Crawford, II Signed this 1st day of November 2023.

CHAIR PRESIDING

Board member Bill Ogden did not participate in this decision.