



BEFORE THE BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS

Appointed By
THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

LAUREN ASHLEY HARRIS

State Bar of Texas Card No. 24080932

v.

**COMMISSION FOR
LAWYER DISCIPLINE**

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CAUSE NO. 67843

**ORDER GRANTING APPELLEE'S MOTION TO STRIKE APPELLANT'S BRIEF
AND TO DISMISS APPEAL**

On this day, the Board, sitting en banc, considered the Opposed Motion to Strike Appellant's Brief and to Dismiss Appeal, filed by Appellee, the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, in the above-numbered and captioned appeal from a default judgment of partially probated suspension. Appellant has not filed a response to Appellee's motion. *See* BODA INTERNAL PROCEDURAL RULE (IPR) 1.09(a), 4.09(a); *see also*, TEX. RULES APP. P. (TRAP) 10.3(a). Having reviewed the motion and the arguments therein, as well as the pleadings and documents filed in the appeal, the Board finds as follows:

The Board twice cautioned Appellant that her brief must not exceed the length limitation in BODA Internal Procedural Rule (IPR) 4.05(d). In its order dated March 12, 2025, Appellant was cautioned prior to the filing of her appellant's brief that her brief must not exceed BODA IPR 4.05(d)'s limit of 15,000 words.

Despite the Board having instructed that the brief must comply with the word limit, Appellant filed a brief that exceeded the word limit by 25,225 words, according to Appellant's own count—a flagrant violation of the word limit in IPR 4.05(d). The Board issued an order on July 3, 2025, striking

Appellant's brief and ordering her to redraw it. Appellant was ordered to file a new, compliant brief and to refile her appendix no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 11, 2025. In the order, the Board specifically cautioned Appellant: "Failure to file a brief that conforms with the requirements of the BODA Internal Procedural Rules within the deadline established herein may be grounds for dismissal of this appeal. *See* BODA IPR 4.05(f), 4.09."

Appellant filed her redrawn appellant's brief via email sent to filing@txboda.org. The document was received at 6:02 p.m. on Friday, July 11, 2025. Per BODA IPR 1.05(a)(2), the document was marked as filed on Monday, July 14, 2025.

The redrawn brief included a certificate of compliance in which Appellant stated that the brief "contains 14,775 words as permitted by the Board's Internal Procedural Rule 4.05(d)." Rule 4.05(d) of the BODA Internal Procedural Rules provides: "In calculating the length of a document, every word and every part of the document, including headings, footnotes, and quotations, must be counted except the following: caption, identity of the parties and counsel, statement regarding oral argument, table of contents, index of authorities, statement of the case, statement of issues presented, statement of the jurisdiction, signature, proof of service, certificate of compliance, and appendix." The portions of Appellant's redrawn brief specified by BODA IPR 4.05(d) contain over 17,000 words.¹

Despite being given an opportunity to cure the defects in her initial brief, Appellant's redrawn brief still fails to comply with the Board's July 3, 2025, order in two respects: (1) it was filed after the deadline set by the Board's order, and (2) it exceeds the word limit in BODA IPR 4.05(d), despite the Board's explicit warnings. While the Board favors resolution of appeals on the merits, Appellant's failure to cure the flagrant defects in her brief, even after being specifically warned to do so, warrants

¹ Appellee asserts their counsel counted the words manually and electronically. BODA conducted a similar electronic count and independently determined that the brief contains more than 17,000 words. Thus, the Board independently determined that the brief exceeds the allowable word count under BODA Internal Procedural Rule 4.05(d).

dismissal. *See Horton v. Stovall*, 591 S.W.3d 567, 569 (Tex. 2019).

The Board **GRANTS** Appellee's motion and dismisses this appeal with prejudice. *See* BODA IPR 4.09(c); *see also* BODA IPR 1.03, 4.05(f)(1); TRAP 38.9(a).

SIGNED this 29th day of July 2025.



VICE CHAIR PRESIDING

Board members W.C. Kirkendall, Fernando Bustos, Arthur D'Andrea, Melissa Goodwin, and Robert Henneke did not participate in this decision.