

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

**IN THE MATTER OF
MICHAEL E. HARSSEMA
STATE BAR CARD NO. 24012794**

§
§ **CAUSE NO. 36745**
§

JUDGMENT OF INDEFINITE DISABILITY SUSPENSION

On October 26, 2006, came on to be heard before a District Disability Committee appointed by the Board of Disciplinary Appeals whether the Respondent, **MICHAEL E. HARSSEMA**, suffers from a disability as defined in the TEXAS RULES OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE. As set forth in the attached Finding, which is incorporated herein by reference as if set out in full, the District Disability Committee found that Respondent does suffer from a disability.

IT IS, THEREFORE, **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED**, pursuant to TEXAS RULES OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE Part XII, that Respondent, **MICHAEL E. HARSSEMA**, State Bar Card No. 24012794, is hereby **SUSPENDED** from the practice of law in the State of Texas immediately as of the date of this judgment and continuing thereafter until reinstated by this Board or by a court of competent jurisdiction.

It is further **ORDERED, ADJUDGED** and **DECREED** that Respondent, **MICHAEL E. HARSSEMA** is hereby prohibited during said suspension from practicing law in Texas, holding himself out as an attorney at law, performing any legal service for others, accepting any fee directly or indirectly for legal services not completed before the date of this judgment, appearing as counsel in any proceeding in any Texas 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,” “counselor,” or “lawyer.”

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, **MICHAEL E. HARSSEMA**, shall, within thirty (30) days from the date of this judgment, notify in writing each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, and chief justice of each and every court 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. Respondent is also **ORDERED** to mail copies of all such notifications to the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent shall immediately notify each of his current clients, if any, in writing, of his suspension. 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 his 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 have been notified of his suspension 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 his 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 Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent immediately surrender his Texas law license and permanent State Bar Card to the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, for transmittal to the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas.

Signed this 2nd day of November 2006.

Karen L. Watkins

CHAIR PRESIDING

THE BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS
appointed by
THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS
DISTRICT DISABILITY COMMITTEE
HOUSTON TEXAS

IN THE MATTER OF
MICHAEL E. HARSSEMA
STATE BAR CARD NO. 16149100

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CAUSE NO. 36745

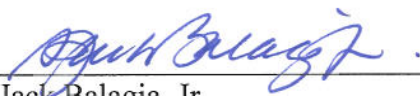
DISTRICT DISABILITY COMMITTEE FINDING

On the 26th day of October 2006, the above-styled and numbered disability matter was called for hearing before the District Disability Committee of the Board of Disciplinary Appeals. Petitioner, the Commission for Lawyer Discipline of the State Bar of Texas, through its attorney, the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, appeared and announced ready. Respondent, Michael E. Harssema, appeared with counsel and announced ready. The District Disability Committee, in a de novo proceeding, received evidence in accordance with Rule 8.03 of the INTERNAL PROCEDURAL RULES OF THE BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS and Rule 12.03 of the TEXAS RULES OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE to determine whether the Respondent, Michael E. Harssema was suffering from a Disability as defined in Rule 1.06(I) of the TEXAS RULES OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE. The Committee found that there was substantial evidence to find that the Respondent suffers from a mental condition that results in his inability to practice law, provide client services, complete contracts of employment, or otherwise carry out his professional responsibilities to clients, courts, the profession or the public.

THEREFORE, the District Disability Committee of the Board of Disciplinary Appeals FINDS and hereby CERTIFIES to the Board of Disciplinary Appeals as follows:

That Respondent, Michael E. Harssema, State Bar Card Number 24012794, suffers from a Disability as defined in Rule 1.06(I) of the TEXAS RULES OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE.

SIGNED this 30th day of October, 2006.



S. Jack Balagia, Jr.
Chairman, District Disability Committee