



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

**IN THE MATTER OF
DARRELL KEITH HICKMAN,
STATE BAR CARD NO. 09572980**

§
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§

CAUSE NO. 67899

JUDGMENT OF DISBARMENT

On the 28th day of July, 2023, 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, Darrell Keith Hickman, although properly served with the Petition for Reciprocal Discipline, failed to appear and wholly made default. 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, Darrell Keith Hickman, State Bar Card Number 09572980, is licensed but not currently authorized to practice law in the State of Texas by the Supreme Court of Texas.
- (2) On or about January 23, 2023, a Joint Petition for Permanent Resignation from the Practice of Law in Lieu of Discipline Pursuant to Rule XIX, Section 20.1, was filed in the Supreme Court of Louisiana in a matter styled: *In Re: Darrell Keith Hickman (Louisiana Bar Roll No. 22797)*, Docket No. 23-OB-0093, which states in pertinent part:

4.

The Office of the Disciplinary Counsel has filed Formal Charges against Respondent bearing LADB docket number 22-DB-041, related to three (3) open complaints, namely ODC investigative file numbers 0039093, 0039347 and 0039548.

6.

With respect to ODC 0039093, there exists ground for discipline for violations of Rules of Professional Conduct, Rules 1.1(a); 1.3; 1.4(A)(1),(2),(3),(4); 1.7(a)(2); 1.16(a)(1); 2.1; 3.3(a)(1); (3); 3.4(c); and 8.4(a), (c).

8.

With respect to ODC 0039347, there exists grounds for discipline for violations of Rules of Professional Conduct, Rules 1.1(a); 1.3; 1.4(A),(2),(3),(4); 1.16(a), (d); 8.1(c); and 8.4(a), (c).

10.

With respect to ODC 0039548, there exists grounds for discipline for violations of Rules of Professional Conduct, Rules 8.1(c) and 8.4(a), (c), (d).

- (3) On or about March 14, 2023, the Supreme Court of the State of Louisiana issued an Order in the matter styled: *In Re: Darrell Keith Hickman*, No. 2023-OB-00093, which states in pertinent part:

The Office of Disciplinary Counsel (“ODC”) has filed formal charges against respondent alleging that he committed serious attorney misconduct, including failing to adequately communicate with his clients and providing false and misleading information to his clients, courts, opposing counsel, and the ODC. Respondent now seeks to permanently resign from the practice of law in lieu of discipline. The ODC has concurred in respondent’s petition.

Having considered the Petition for Permanent Resignation from the Practice of Law filed by Darrell Keith Hickman, Louisiana Bar Roll number 22797, and the concurrence thereto filed by the ODC,

IT IS ORDERED that the request of Darrell Keith Hickman for permanent resignation in lieu of discipline be and is hereby granted, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule XIX, § 20.1 and Rule 5.5 of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Darrell Keith Hickman shall be permanently prohibited from practicing law in Louisiana or in any other jurisdiction in which he is admitted to the practice of law; shall be permanently prohibited from seeking readmission to the practice of law in this state or in any other jurisdiction in which he is admitted; and shall be permanently prohibited from seeking admission to the practice of law in any jurisdiction.

- (4) Respondent, Darrell Keith Hickman, is the same person as Darrell Keith Hickman, who is the subject of the Order 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).
- (2) Reciprocal discipline identical, to the extent practicable, to that imposed by the Supreme Court of the State of Louisiana, is warranted in this case. TEX. RULES DISCIPLINARY P. R. 9.03.

It is, accordingly, **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED** that Respondent, Darrell Keith Hickman, State Bar Card No. 09572980, 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, Darrell Keith Hickman, 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,” “esquire,” “Esq.,” or “lawyer.”

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Darrell Keith Hickman, 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, 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, Darrell Keith Hickman, 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, 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, Darrell Keith Hickman, shall, on or before thirty (30) days from 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 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 has been representing.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Darrell Keith Hickman, 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, an affidavit stating that Respondent has sent written notice to each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, administrative judge or officer, and chief justice in accordance with the terms of this judgment.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Darrell Keith Hickman, 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 31st day of July 2023.



CHAIR PRESIDING