

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

IN THE MATTER OF \$ LANDON STEPHON KEATING \$ CAUSE NO. 68536 STATE BAR CARD NO. 24086647 \$

JUDGMENT OF DISBARMENT

On the 26th day of April, 2024, the above-styled and numbered compulsory discipline action was called for hearing before the Board of Disciplinary Appeals. Petitioner, the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, appeared by attorney and announced ready. Respondent, Landon Stephon Keating, appeared by and through his attorney of record. 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, 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, Landon Stephon Keating, State Bar Card Number 24086647, is licensed and authorized to practice law in the State of Texas by the Supreme Court of Texas.
- (2) On or about February 26, 2021, the grand jury of the 208th Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas, issued five separate Indictments charging Respondent with the felony of Invasive Visual Recording. Each case was styled *The State of Texas v. Landon Stephon Keating*, Cause Numbers 1692087 through 1692091, and each stated that Respondent "unlawfully, with the intent to invade the privacy of . . . the Complainant, and without the consent of the Complainant, record[ed] by electronic means a visual image . . . of the Complainant in a bathroom." Each Indictment referenced a particular digital file recorded on a specific date.

- (3) On or about April 4, 2023, the 208th District Court Harris County, Texas, issued five Orders of Deferred Adjudication in Cause Number 169208701010, styled *The State of Texas v. Keating, Landon Stephon*, each corresponding to one of the Indictments described above. The Orders show that Respondent pleaded guilty to the State Jail Felony offense of "INVASIVE VISUAL RECORDING BATH/DRESS ROOM." Respondent was placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for five (5) years, conditioned upon Respondent's compliance with specific terms of probation.
- (4) Respondent, Landon Stephon Keating, is the same person as the Landon Stephon Keating, who is the subject of the Indictments and Orders of Deferred Adjudication described above.

Conclusions of Law. Based on the foregoing findings of fact the Board of Disciplinary Appeals makes the following conclusions of law:

- (1) This Board has jurisdiction, and an affirmative duty, to hear and determine this compulsory discipline matter. Tex. Rules Disciplinary P. R. 7.08(G), 8.04; see In re Filippov, BODA Case No. 30611, 2004 WL 5698154, at *2 (Jan. 22, 2004), aff'd, 04-0151 (June 18, 2004).
- (2) As announced during the hearing on April 26, 2024, Respondent's Plea to the Jurisdiction is DENIED.
- (3) As announced during the hearing on April 26, 2024, Respondent's Motion for Permissive Interlocutory Appeal and Stay of Proceeding Subject to Respondent's Plea to the Jurisdiction is DENIED.
- (4) As announced during the hearing on April 26, 2024, Respondent's emergency motion for continuance, urged during that hearing, is DENIED.
- (5) In deciding whether a felony offense is an "Intentional Crime" and "Serious Crime," as those terms are defined by the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, the Board "look[s] solely to the elements of [the respondent's] crime to determine if those elements involve any of the kinds of acts or characteristics encompassed within [the Texas Supreme Court's] definition of moral turpitude." *In re Lock*, 54 S.W.3d 305, 308 (Tex. 2001).
- (6) A felony involves moral turpitude when it "involve[s] dishonesty, fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or deliberate violence, or must reflect adversely on an attorney's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as an attorney." *Id.*
- (7) Looking solely to the elements of Invasive Visual Recording under Texas Penal Code 21.15, Respondent, Landon Stephon Keating, pleaded guilty to

and was granted probation and deferred adjudication for an Intentional and Serious Crime, as defined by Texas Rule of Disciplinary Procedure 1.06(V) and (GG).

- (8) Compulsory discipline is warranted in this case. TEX. RULES DISCIPLINARY P. R. 8.04.
- (9) The Board has discretion to enter an order of disbarment or suspend Respondent's license for the duration of the term of deferred adjudication probation. *In re Caballero*, 272 S.W.3d 595, 601 (Tex. 2008); *see* TEX. RULES DISCIPLINARY P. R. 8.05, 8.06.
- (10) In considering whether to whether to disbar or suspend, the Board has applied the factors expressed in *In re Isassi*, BODA Case No. 57699 (May 8, 2017).
- (11) The Board may consider evidence of the underlying facts and circumstances in determining the compulsory discipline sanction to be imposed. *E.g.*, *Filippov*, 2004 WL 5698154, at *6.
- (12) Based on the relevant factors and the evidence and argument submitted by the parties, the Board determines that disbarment is the appropriate sanction.

It is, accordingly, **ORDERED**, **ADJUDGED**, and **DECREED** that Respondent, Landon Stephon Keating, State Bar Card No. 24086647, 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, Landon Stephon Keating, 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, Landon Stephon Keating, shall immediately

notify each of his current clients, if any, 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, Landon Stephon Keating, 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 date 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 such files, papers, monies, or

other property, 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, Landon Stephon Keating, shall, on or before

thirty (30) days from the date 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 represented.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Landon Stephon Keating, shall file with the State

Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414

Judgment of Disbarment Landon Stephon Keating Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701), within thirty (30) days of the date 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, Landon Stephon Keating, 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 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701), 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 3rd day of May 2024.

CHAIR PRESIDING

Board members Jason Boatright and Jennifer Caughey did not participate in the Board's decision.

Judgment of Disbarment Landon Stephon Keating Page 5 of 5