

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

IN THE MATTER OF	§	
PATRICK LANIER	§	CAUSE NO. 57700
STATE BAR CARD NO. 11933500	§	

AGREED INTERLOCUTORY ORDER OF SUSPENSION

On this day, the above-styled and numbered compulsory disciplinary action was called for hearing before the Board of Disciplinary Appeals. Petitioner appeared by attorney and Respondent appeared by attorney as indicated by their respective signatures below and announced that they agree to the findings of fact, conclusions of law and orders set forth below solely for the purposes of this proceeding which has not been fully adjudicated. The Board of Disciplinary Appeals, having reviewed the file and in consideration of the agreement of the parties, 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, Patrick Lanier, whose State Bar Card number is 11933500, is licensed by the Supreme Court of Texas to practice law and is authorized to practice law in the State of Texas.
- (2) On or about September 7, 2011, Respondent was charged by Second Superseding Indictment with one count of Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud, fourteen counts of Wire Fraud, one count of Harboring and Concealing Person from Arrest, and one count Assisting Federal Offender in Cause No. H-10-258-SS, styled *United States of America, v. Clarence Hudgens, James David Wright, Christopher Harless, Patrick Lanier and Sikiru Olubunmi Bonojo*, in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division.
- (3) On or about March 25, 2015, a Judgment in a Criminal Case was entered in Cause No. 4:10CR00258-004, styled *United States of America, v.*

Patrick Lanier, in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division wherein Respondent was found guilty of Count 1S - Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343 and 1349, Counts 2S through 13S and Count 15S - Wire Fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343, Count 16S - Harboring and Concealing a Person from Arrest in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1071, and Count 17S - Assisting a Federal Offender in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 3 and was committed to the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a term of two hundred four (204) months on each of Counts 1S through 13S and 15S and twenty-two (22) months as to Counts 16S and 17S, to run concurrently for a total of two hundred four (204) months, and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$37,544,944.16. Upon release from imprisonment, Respondent shall be placed on supervised release for a period of three (3) years as to each of Counts 1S through 13S and 15S, and one (1) year as to Counts 16S and 17S, to run concurrently, for a total term of three (3) years.

- (4) Respondent, Patrick Lanier, is the same person as the Patrick Lanier who is the subject of the criminal case described above.
- (5) Respondent has appealed the criminal conviction.

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. R. Disciplinary P. ("TRDP") 7.08(G);
- (2) Respondent, Patrick Lanier, having been convicted of Count 1S - Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud, Counts 2S through 13S and Count 15S - Wire Fraud, Count 16S - Harboring and Concealing a Person from Arrest, and Count 17S - Assisting a Federal Offender, has been convicted of Intentional Crimes as defined by TRDP 1.06(T).
- (3) Respondent has also been convicted of Serious Crimes as defined by TRDP 1.06(AA).
- (4) Having been found guilty and convicted of Intentional and Serious Crimes and having appealed such conviction, Respondent, Patrick Lanier, should have his license to practice law in Texas suspended during the appeal of his criminal conviction. TRDP 8.04.
- (5) The Board retains jurisdiction to enter a final judgment in this matter when the criminal appeal is final.

It is, accordingly, ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED that Respondent, Patrick Lanier State Bar Card No. 11933500, is hereby SUSPENDED from the practice of law in the State of Texas effective immediately upon entry of this order and continuing hereafter until further order of this Board.

It is further ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that Respondent, Patrick Lanier, during said suspension is hereby prohibited, effective immediately, 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 order, 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, Patrick Lanier, shall notify in writing, no later than thirty (30) days from the date of this Order, each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, and chief justice of each and every court in which Respondent, Patrick Lanier, 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 Statewide Compliance Monitor, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711. Respondent is further ORDERED to file with the Statewide Compliance Monitor, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711, within the same thirty (30) days, an affidavit stating wither (a) that each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, and

chief justice of each and every court in which Respondent, Patrick Lanier, has any legal matter pending, if any, of his suspension, has been notified or (b) that Respondent has no legal matters pending in any court.

It is further ORDERED that Respondent, Patrick Lanier, 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 with active cases pending, if any, to those respective clients or former clients with active cases pending within thirty (30) days after the date of this Order. Respondent is further ORDERED to file with the Statewide Compliance Monitor, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711, within the same thirty (30) days, an affidavit stating either (a) 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 with active cases pending have been returned as ordered herein or (b) that Respondent has no current clients, files, or papers, and that any unearned fees paid in advance or other monies or properties belonging to clients have previously been returned to the appropriate client. If Respondent is unable to return any file, papers, money or other property to any client or former client with active cases pending, 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 all notification letters 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, Patrick Lanier, immediately surrender his Texas law license and permanent State Bar Card to the Statewide Compliance Monitor, Office of the Chief Disciplinary, 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 a certified copy of the Petition for Compulsory Discipline on file herein, along with a copy of this Order, be sent to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, Texas 78711.

It is further ORDERED that this Order is interlocutory and that the Board retains jurisdiction to enter a final judgment when the appeal of the criminal conviction is final. *In the Matter of Mercier*, 242 SW 3d 46 (Tex. 2007).

It is further ORDERED that Respondent shall promptly notify the Board and the State Bar of Texas Chief Disciplinary Counsel when the appeal of the criminal conviction is final.

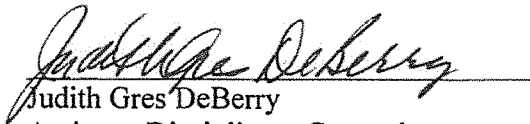
It is further ORDERED that the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas shall monitor the status of the appeal of the criminal conviction on at least a quarterly basis and promptly file an appropriate motion for entry of final judgment with the Board if and when the appeal of the criminal conviction is final.

Signed this 26 day of July 2016.

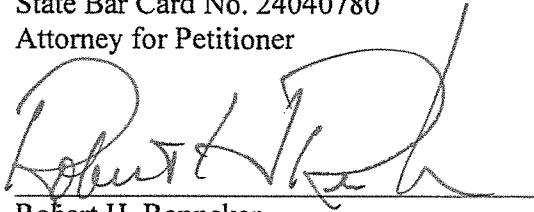


Chairman Presiding
Board of Disciplinary Appeals

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:



Judith Gres DeBerry
Assistant Disciplinary Counsel
State Bar Card No. 24040780
Attorney for Petitioner



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