



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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF</b>	§	
<b>JAMES ROBERT MASON</b>	§	<b>CAUSE NO. 66185</b>
<b>STATE BAR CARD NO. 24094822</b>	§	

**DEFAULT JUDGMENT OF SUSPENSION**

On the 28th day of January, 2022, the above-styled and numbered reciprocal 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, James Robert Mason, although duly cited to appear, 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, James Robert Mason, whose Bar Card No. is 24094822 is an attorney licensed but not currently authorized by the Supreme Court of Texas to practice law in the State of Texas.
  
- (2) On or about October 14, 2021, the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission for Illinois filed a Petition to Impose Discipline on Consent Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 762(b) in the Supreme Court of Illinois in a matter styled *In the Matter of James Robert Mason, No. 6331196*, Supreme Court No. Commission No. 2021PR00045, stating that

Respondent engaged in the following misconduct:

- a. knowingly making false statements of material fact in connection with a disciplinary proceeding, by conduct including making false statements during the Administrator's investigation of his conduct in a letter to the Administrator dated November 19, 2019, in sworn testimony on April 8, 2021, and in an email to the Administrator on April 8, 2021, in violation of Rule 8.1(a) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010); and
- b. conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation, by conduct including knowingly and without authority using funds from his former firm's bank account to pay his registration fees and making false statements to the Administrator during the Administrator's investigation of his conduct, in violation of Rule 8.4(c) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct (2010).

(3) That Petition, referenced in paragraph (2) above, also stated:

WHEREFORE, the Administrator, with the consent of Respondent, James Robert Mason, and the approval of a panel of the Hearing Board, requests that the Court enter an order suspending Respondent from the practice of law in Illinois for five months.

(4) Attached to that Petition, referenced in paragraph (2) above, an affidavit signed by Respondent on September 7, 2021 stated that the assertions in the Petition were true and correct, Respondent joined in the Petition freely and voluntarily, and Respondent understood the nature and consequences of the Petition.

(5) On November 16, 2021, the Supreme Court of Illinois issued a judgment in the matter styled *In re: James Robert Mason, M.R. 030993*, Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission No. 2021PR00045, which states:

Petition by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to impose discipline on consent pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 762(b). Allowed. Respondent James Robert Mason is suspended from the practice of law for five (5) months.

Suspension effective December 7, 2021.

Respondent James Robert Mason shall reimburse the Client Protection Program Trust Fund for any Client Protection payments arising from his conduct prior to the termination of the period of suspension.

- (6) Respondent, James Robert Mason, is the same person as the James Robert Mason who is the subject of the judgment entered by the Supreme Court of Illinois; and
- (7) The judgment entered in the Supreme Court of Illinois is final.

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 that imposed by the Supreme Court of Illinois is warranted in this case.

It is, accordingly, **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED** that Respondent, James Robert Mason, State Bar Card No. 24094822, is hereby **SUSPENDED** from the practice of law in Texas for a period of five (5) months beginning immediately upon entry of this judgment and ending, July 31, 2022.

It is further **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED** that Respondent, James Robert Mason, during said suspension 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 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, James Robert Mason, within thirty (30) days of the date of this judgment, shall 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 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.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, James Robert Mason, shall file with the State Bar of Texas, Statewide Compliance Monitor, 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 Respondent has notified in writing each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, and chief justice of each and every court in which Respondent has any matter pending 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 is representing in Court.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, James Robert Mason, within thirty (30) days of the date of this judgment, shall notify each of his current clients and opposing counsel, if any, in writing, of his suspension. In addition to such notification, Respondent is **ORDERED** to return any files, papers, unearned monies, and other property, 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, James Robert Mason, shall file with the State Bar of Texas, Statewide Compliance Monitor, 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 and opposing counsel have been notified of Respondent's suspension and that all files, papers, monies, and other property belonging to all current 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, James Robert Mason, within thirty (30) days of the date of this judgment, 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 a certified copy of the Petition for Reciprocal Discipline on file herein, along with a copy of this Judgment, be sent to the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, Texas 78711.

It is further **ORDERED** that this Default Judgment of Suspension shall be made a matter of public record and be published in the Texas Bar Journal.

Signed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of February 2022.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin H.", written over a horizontal line.

**CHAIR PRESIDING**