



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

**IN THE MATTER OF
WILLIAM TOPP MAXWELL
STATE BAR CARD NO. 24028775**

§
§
§

CAUSE NO. 56591

JUDGMENT OF DISBARMENT

On the 30th day of January, 2025, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals considered the Motion for Entry of Judgment of Disbarment filed by Petitioner, Commission for Lawyer Discipline of the State Bar of Texas, in the above-captioned case.

Having considered the pleadings on file, the Board enters the following findings and conclusions:

- (1) On February 2, 2016, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals entered an Interlocutory Order of Suspension, finding that on or about August 11, 2015, an Amended Judgment (as to forfeiture) in a Criminal Case was entered in Case No. 1:11-CR-00740 (03), styled *United States of America v. William Maxwell*, in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, wherein Respondent, William Topp Maxwell, was found guilty of Racketeering Conspiracy, Conspiracy to Commit Securities Fraud, Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud, Wire Fraud, Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering, Conspiracy to Obstruct Justice, and Conspiracy to Sell or Transfer Firearms and Ammunition to a Prohibited Person, and was committed to the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for 240 months followed by 3 years supervised release. Respondent was also ordered to pay an assessment of \$2,200.00 and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$14,180,798.00.
- (2) As stated in the Board's February 2, 2016, Interlocutory Order, Respondent was found guilty of and convicted of Intentional Crimes and Serious Crimes, as those terms were then defined in Texas Rule Disciplinary Procedure 1.06(T) and (Z). Rule 1.06 has since been renumbered, so "Intentional Crime" and "Serious Crime" are now defined in Rule 1.06(V) and (GG), respectively.

- (3) The Board retains jurisdiction to enter a final judgment in this matter. TEX. RULES DISCIPLINARY P. R. 8.04-.06.
- (4) Petitioner filed its Motion for Entry of Judgment of Disbarment on or about May 16, 2024, and served same on Respondent in accordance with Texas Rule of Disciplinary Procedure 8.05.
- (5) The United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit affirmed Respondent, William Topp Maxwell's, conviction and sentence on or about July 17, 2023.
- (6) The United States Supreme Court denied Respondent's petition for writ of certiorari on October 7, 2024.
- (7) Respondent's conviction has become final and is not subject to further appeal. BODA INTERNAL PROCEDURAL RULE 6.02(a).
- (8) Petitioner's Motion for Entry of Judgment of Disbarment shall be granted. TEX. RULES DISCIPLINARY P. R. 8.05.

Disbarment

It is, therefore, accordingly, **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED** that Respondent, Willam Topp Maxwell, State Bar No. 24028775, 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, William Topp Maxwell, 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, William Topp Maxwell, 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, William Topp Maxwell, 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 said client any file, paper, money, or other property.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, William Topp Maxwell, shall, on or before thirty (30) days from the date 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 represented.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, William Topp Maxwell, 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 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, William Topp Maxwell, 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, Austin, Texas 78711(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 5th day of February 2025.



CHAIR PRESIDING

Board members Scott Fredricks and David Iglesias did not participate in this decision.