



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

IN THE MATTER OF § **CAUSE NO. 64479**
JAMES R. PALMER §
STATE BAR CARD NO. 00793217 §

DEFAULT JUDGMENT OF DISBARMENT

On the 30th day of January, 2026, the above-styled and numbered disciplinary action was called for hearing before the Board of Disciplinary Appeals. The Commission appeared by attorney and announced ready. Respondent, although duly noticed, failed to appear. 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 makes the following findings, conclusions, and orders:

Findings of Fact. The Board of Disciplinary Appeals finds that:

- (1) Respondent, James R. Palmer, State Bar Card Number 00793217, is licensed and authorized to practice law in the State of Texas by the Supreme Court of Texas.
- (2) On May 2, 2019, Respondent filed a Petition for Disciplinary Revocation with Leave to Reapply for Admission with the Supreme Court of Florida in a matter styled *The Florida Bar, In Re: The Petition for Disciplinary Revocation of James R. Palmer*, Supreme Court Case No. SC19-1711, The Florida Bar File No. 2019-30,768(09A)(CDR).
- (3) In his Petition for Disciplinary Revocation with Leave to Reapply for Readmission, Respondent acknowledged that disciplinary charges were pending against him in two Florida Bar files, and stated that he understood the revocation, if granted, would result in the dismissal of the pending disciplinary cases. Respondent admitted that he failed to maintain the

minimum trust account records or follow the minimum trust account procedures as required by Chapter 5 of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar. He further admitted that a Florida Bar compliance audit identified instances in which client trust funds were used for purposes other than for the specific purpose for which they were intended.

(4) On August 29, 2019, the Supreme Court of Florida issued an Order in the matter styled *In Re: Petition for Disciplinary Revocation of James R. Palmer*, Case No. SC19-711, Lower Tribunal No(s): 2019-30,768(09A)(CDR), which states in pertinent part:

The uncontested petition for disciplinary revocation, as provided by Rule 3-7.12, Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, with leave to seek readmission after five years, is granted subject to the continuing jurisdiction of this Court. *See Florida Bar v. Ross*, 732 So. 2d 1037, 1040-42 (Fla. 1998). Disciplinary revocation is tantamount to disbarment. *Florida Bar v. Hale*, 762 So. 2d 515 (Fla. 2000).

(5) On October 2, 2025, Petitioner filed a process server's affidavit stating that Respondent was personally served the Fourth Amended Petition for Reciprocal Discipline, Order to Show Cause on Fourth Amended Petition for Reciprocal Discipline, and notice of hearing, on September 19, 2025.

(6) Respondent failed to file an answer, respond to the Board's order to show cause, or raise defenses under Texas Rule of Disciplinary Procedure 9.04.

(7) Respondent, James R. Palmer, is the same person as James R. Palmer, 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) The conduct that resulted in the discipline imposed in Florida occurred within the limitations period of Texas Rule of Disciplinary Procedure 17.06(a).

(3) The Board must enter a judgment imposing discipline identical, to the extent practicable, to that imposed by the Supreme Court of Florida. TEX. RULES DISCIPLINARY P. R. 9.03.

(4) Respondent, James R. Palmer, therefore, shall be disbarred.

It is, accordingly, **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED** that Respondent, James R. Palmer, State Bar Card No. 00793217, be and is hereby DISBARRED from the practice of law in the State of Texas, and his license to practice law in this state be and is hereby revoked.

It is further **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED** that Respondent, James R. Palmer, is prohibited 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, 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 at law," "attorney," "counselor at law," "Esquire," "Esq." or "lawyer."

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, James R. Palmer, 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, if any, in which Respondent, James R. Palmer, has any legal matter pending, if any, of his disbarment, 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.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, James R. Palmer, 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, administrative judge or officer, and chief justice of each and every court or tribunal in which Respondent has any matter pending of the terms of this judgment, the style and cause number of *Judgment of Disbarment*
James R. Palmer
Page 3 of 5

the pending matter(s), and the name, address and telephone number of the client(s) Respondent is representing in that court or tribunal.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, James R. Palmer, 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 disbarment. In addition to such notification, Respondent is **ORDERED** to return all files, papers, unearned fees paid in advance, and all other monies and property which are in his possession or control but which belong to current or former clients, if any, to those respective clients or former clients within thirty (30) days of the date of this judgment if requested.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, James R. Palmer, within thirty (30) days of the date of this judgment, 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), an affidavit stating that all current clients and opposing counsel have been notified of Respondent's disbarment and that all files, papers, monies, and other property belonging to all current and former clients have been returned as ordered herein. If Respondent should be unable to return any file, papers, money, or other property to 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 such inability to return to said client any file, paper, money, or other property.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, James R. Palmer, within thirty (30) days of the date of this judgment, shall 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 Default Judgment of Disbarment shall be made a matter of public record and notice of this judgment shall be published in the *Texas Bar Journal*.

Signed this 4th day of February 2026.



CHAIR PRESIDING

Board members Fernando Bustos and Scott Fredricks did not participate in this decision.