

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

IN THE MATTER OF
HAL PARKER, JR.
STATE BAR CARD NO. 15484020

§
§
§

CAUSE NO. 51381

AGREED JUDGMENT OF FULLY PROBATED SUSPENSION

On the 14th day of November 2012, the above-styled and numbered reciprocal disciplinary action was called for hearing before the Board of Disciplinary Appeals. Petitioner appeared by attorney and Respondent appeared pro se 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. 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, Hal Parker, Jr., is an attorney who is licensed and authorized to practice law in the State of Texas, and whose Bar Card No. is 15484020;
- (2) On January 23, 2012, an Order Approving Conditional Admission of Misconduct and Imposing Sanctions Pursuant to C.R.C.P. 251.22 with Stipulation, Agreement and Affidavit Containing the Respondent's Conditional Admission of Misconduct attached was entered by the Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge of the Supreme Court of Colorado in a matter styled: No. 12PDJ006, *Complainant: The People of the State of Colorado, Respondent: George H. Parker, Jr.*, suspending Respondent from

the practice of law for a period of one year and one day, all stayed upon the successful completion of a two-year period of probation. In the Order Approving Conditional Admission of Misconduct and Imposing Sanctions Pursuant to C.R.C.P. 251.22 with Stipulation, Agreement and Affidavit Containing the Respondent's Conditional Admission of Misconduct attached, the Court found that:

- a. Respondent has a daughter named Laura Crowley, nee Laura Elizabeth Parker, date of birth November 24, 1984. Ms. Crowley resides in Riverton, Wyoming.
- b. Respondent divorced Ms. Crowley's mother, Rebecca Paddock, in 1991. By way of a Final Decree of Divorce, Respondent was ordered in the State of Texas to pay \$500 per month in child support beginning July 1, 1991. The Decree states that when the child turned eighteen, married or was otherwise emancipated, the child support obligation would cease.
- c. In 1997, Respondent was significantly in arrears on child support. Accordingly, on April 30, 1998, the court in Bexar County, Texas entered an Order Enforcing Child Support Obligation against Respondent. The order "finds, renders and confirms that George Harold Parker, Jr. is in arrears in the amount of \$39,507.50 as of 4-29, 1998."
- d. On June 25, 1998, the court in Bexar County, Texas issued a Supplemental Order Suspending Commitment on condition that Respondent pay \$5000 in child support on that same date. The court's order reaffirmed the child support obligation in the amount of \$35,587.50 as of the date of the supplemental order, with interest to accrue in the amount of twelve percent per year. Further, Respondent was ordered to pay \$500 a month until his then-current child support obligation ended and \$1000 a month thereafter until the arrearages were paid in full.
- e. Respondent paid on the child support from 1998 to 2003. Prior to 2011, the last credit to his account was in July, 2005 in the amount of \$1,536.28.
- f. Ms. Crowley had a child in 2003 at age eighteen. She married in 2004 at age nineteen.
- g. Respondent's child support obligations, exclusive of interest and arrearages, expired in November 24, 2003, on Ms. Crowley's eighteenth birthday.

However, the 1998 orders make clear that Respondent remained obligated to pay the interest and arrearages.

- h. On February 4, 2004, Respondent signed his Colorado attorney registration form for the Colorado Supreme Court and checked "I hereby certify that I am IN COMPLIANCE with respect to any child support orders." As of that date he owed \$20,835.40 in child support and had not made a payment since June, 2003 (four months before Ms. Crowley turned eighteen).
- i. On January 18, 2005, Respondent checked the same box on his Colorado attorney registration form for the Colorado Supreme Court, indicating that he was "in compliance" with child support orders. As of that date, he owed \$21,957.52 in child support arrearages and interest as ordered by the court in 1998 and had only made one payment of \$1000, on March 3, 2004 in the previous twelve months.
- j. In 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2010, Respondent checked the box ("I hereby certify that I am NOT UNDER ANY COURT ORDER to pay child support" on his attorney registration with the Colorado Supreme Court. For each year, he was at least \$22,000 in arrears on the child support arrearages and interest. The only payment in any of these years was a \$1,536.28 credit in July, 2005.
- k. For each of Respondent's assertions regarding child support orders on his attorney registration forms, the underlying child support obligation had expired, however, Respondent remained obligated to pay arrearages and interest.
- l. Respondent states that he believed his daughter was married at the age of sixteen and thus his child support obligation terminated at that time. Official records from the State of Wyoming and statements from Ms. Crowley and her family demonstrate she was not married until she was nineteen.
- m. In January, 2011, Respondent provided to the Texas Office of Attorney General, Child Support Division a form that would allow \$1000 withholding to pay his child support.
- n. Respondent admits that even if his daughter had been married prior to age eighteen, he still would have owed child support arrearages and interest. Respondent has paid nearly the entire principal owed for child support.

however, the balance remaining on interest and arrearages as of October, 2011, was \$34,340.

- o. Through Respondent's conduct described above, Respondent has engaged in conduct constituting grounds for the imposition of discipline pursuant to C.R.C.P. 251.5. Respondent has also violated Colo. RPC 3.4(c) and 8.4(c).
- (3) Respondent, Hal Parker, Jr., is the same person as the George H. Parker, Jr., who is the subject of the Order Approving Conditional Admission of Misconduct and Imposing Sanctions Pursuant to C.R.C.P. 251.22 entered by the Presiding Disciplinary Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colorado; and
- (4) The Order Approving Conditional Admission of Misconduct and Imposing Sanctions Pursuant to C.R.C.P. 251.22 from the Presiding Disciplinary Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colorado is final.

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. 7.08(H);
- (2) Reciprocal discipline identical to that imposed by the Supreme Court of the State of Colorado is warranted in this case.

It is, accordingly, ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Respondent, Hal Parker, Jr., State Bar Card No. 15484020 is hereby SUSPENDED from the practice of law in Texas for a period of one year and one day with the imposition of such suspension being suspended and Respondent being placed on probation for a period of two (2) years beginning November 14, 2012, and ending November 14, 2014, under the following terms and conditions:

1. Respondent shall not violate any of the provisions of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct nor any provision of the State Bar Rules.
2. That Respondent not be found guilty of, or plead no contest to, any felony involving

moral turpitude or any misdemeanor involving theft, embezzlement, or fraudulent misappropriation of money or other property.

3. That Respondent notify both the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel and the Membership Department of the State Bar of Texas of any change in Respondent's address within thirty (30) days of the change of address.

Probation Revocation

Upon determination that Respondent has violated any term of this judgment, the Chief Disciplinary Counsel may, in addition to all other remedies available, file a motion to revoke probation pursuant to Rule 2.23 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure with the Board of Disciplinary Appeals ("BODA") and serve a copy of the motion on Respondent pursuant to Tex.R.Civ.P. 21a.


BODA shall conduct an evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, BODA shall determine by a preponderance of the evidence whether Respondent has violated any term of this Judgment. If BODA finds grounds for revocation, BODA shall enter an order revoking probation and placing Respondent on active suspension from the date of such revocation order. Respondent shall not be given credit for any term of probation served prior to revocation.

It is further ORDERED that any conduct on the part of Respondent which serves as the basis for a motion to revoke probation may also be brought as independent grounds for discipline as allowed under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct and Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

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 Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, Texas 78711.

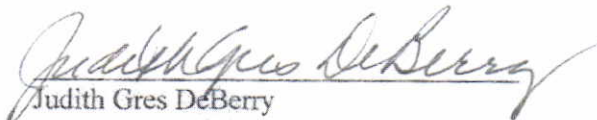
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that his Judgment of Fully Probated Suspension shall be made
a matter of public record and be published in the Texas Bar Journal.

Signed this 14th day of November 2012.

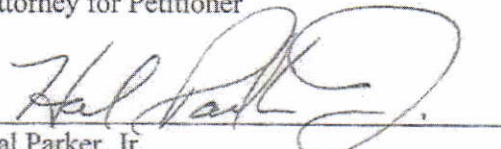


Chairman Presiding
Board of Disciplinary Appeals
Appointed by the Supreme Court of Texas

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:



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



Hal Parker, Jr.
State Bar Car No. 15484020
Respondent