



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

**IN THE MATTER OF
JAMES CHRISTOPHER PITTMAN
STATE BAR CARD NO. 24013337**

§
§
§

CAUSE NO. 73020

JUDGMENT OF SUSPENSION

On the 31st day of July 2026, the above-styled and numbered 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 Christopher Pittman, appeared by and through his attorney of record. 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 Christopher Pittman, State Bar Card Number 24013337, is licensed by the Supreme Court of Texas to practice law in the State of Texas.
- (2) On December 15, 2022, Respondent was charged by Superseding Indictment in Cause No. 1:21-CR-001931-KAM, styled *United States of America v. Richard Dale Sterritt, Jr., also known as "Richard Richman," James Christopher Pittman, and Robyn Straza*, in the United States District Court, Eastern District of New York, Brooklyn Office.
- (3) On September 19, 2025, a Judgment in a Criminal Case was entered in Cause No. 1:21-CR-00193-KAM, styled *United States of America v. James Christopher Pittman*, in the United States District Court, Eastern District of New York, reflecting Respondent's guilty plea to Counts 1 and 2 of the five-count Superseding Indictment as follows: Count 1S, Conspiracy to Commit Securities Fraud, Class D

Felony in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371; and Count 2S, Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud, Class C Felony in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1349, 1343. Respondent was sentenced to probation for a term of five (5) years. As Special Conditions of Supervision, Respondent was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$16,341,343.00, and Respondent was ordered jointly and severally liable for the restitution judgment with three co-defendants.

- (4) Respondent has no other disciplinary history with the State Bar of Texas.
- (5) Respondent, James Christopher Pittman, is the same person as the James Christopher Pittman who is the subject of the Judgment 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(G).
- (2) Respondent, James Christopher Pittman, was adjudicated guilty of conduct that constitutes an Intentional Crime as defined by Texas Rule of Disciplinary Procedure 1.06(V) and a Serious Crime as defined by Texas Rule of Disciplinary Procedure 1.06(GG).
- (3) Compulsory discipline is warranted in this case. TEX. RULES DISCIPLINARY P. R. 8.05.
- (4) Respondent's sentence was fully probated. Thus, the Board had discretion pursuant to Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure 8.05 and 8.06 to enter an order of disbarment or to suspend Respondent's license for the duration of the term of criminal probation. *In re Caballero*, 272 S.W.3d 595, 601 (Tex. 2008).
- (5) In exercising its discretion to disbar or suspend, the Board has applied the non-exclusive factors expressed in *In re Isassi*, BODA Case No. 57699, 2017 WL 2293005 (May 8, 2017) and *In re Filippov*, BODA Case No. 30611, 2004 WL 5698154 (Jan. 22, 2004). *See Caballero*, 272 S.W.3d at 601 (recognizing the *Filippov* factors for determining whether to disbar an attorney or suspend his license).
- (6) Based on the evidence and argument submitted by the parties, the Board determines that suspension is the appropriate sanction.

It is, accordingly, **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED** that Respondent, James Christopher Pittman, State Bar Card No. 24013337, be and hereby is suspended from the practice

of law in the State of Texas effective immediately upon entry of this Judgment and extending through the end of his criminal probation, September 18, 2030.

It is further **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED** that during said suspension, Respondent, James Christopher Pittman, 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, James Christopher Pittman, shall remain subject to all terms and conditions of the criminal probation, including the requirement that restitution be paid, and nothing in this Judgment shall relieve Respondent of any outstanding requirement under that Judgment. Any failure to comply on the part of Respondent may be 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 Respondent, James Christopher Pittman, 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 Christopher Pittman, 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.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, James Christopher Pittman, 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 the pending matter(s), and the name, address and telephone number of the client(s) Respondent is representing in that court or tribunal.

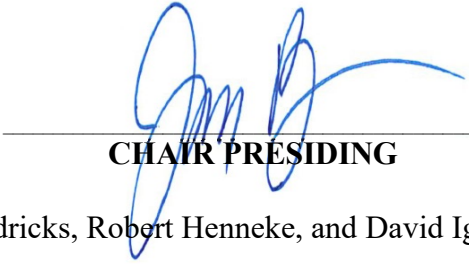
It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, James Christopher Pittman, within thirty (30) days of the date of this judgment, shall notify each of his current clients and opposing counsel, if any, in writing, of his suspension. In addition to such notification, Respondent is **ORDERED** to return all files, 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.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, James Christopher Pittman, 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 suspension 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 Christopher Pittman, 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 Judgment of Suspension shall be made a matter of public record and notice of this judgment shall be published in the *Texas Bar Journal*.

Signed this 6th day of August 2026.



CHAIR PRESIDING

Board members Arthur D'Andrea, Scott Fredricks, Robert Henneke, and David Iglesias did not participate in this decision.

Board member Melissa Goodwin notes her dissent.