



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

**IN THE MATTER OF
RICHARD PLEZIA
STATE BAR CARD NO. 16072800**

§
§
§

CAUSE NO. 68989

JUDGMENT OF DISBARMENT

On the 24th day of April, 2025, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals considered the Motion for Entry of Judgment of Disbarment filed by Petitioner, the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, against Respondent, Richard Plezia, in the above-styled and numbered compulsory discipline case.

Findings of Fact. The Board of Disciplinary Appeals finds:

- (1) On March 28, 2024, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals entered an Interlocutory Order of Suspension, finding that Respondent was convicted of 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).
- (2) On or about October 4, 2023, the United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, Houston Division, entered a Judgment in Criminal Case in Cause No. 4:19-CR-00450-005, styled *United States of America v. Richard Plezia*, reflecting that on February 2, 2023, Respondent was found guilty of Count 1SS (conspiracy to defraud the United States in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371), Count 5SS (false statement in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001(a)(2)), Count 6SS (false statement in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001(a)(2)), and Count 7SS (falsification of records in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1519).
- (3) Under the Judgment, Respondent was ordered committed to the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons for a term consisting of six (6) months and one (1) day as to each of Counts 1SS, 5SS, 6SS, and 7SS, to run concurrently, for a total term of six (6) months and one (1) day. Upon release from imprisonment, Respondent was ordered to be on supervised

release for a term of two (2) years. Respondent was further ordered to pay an assessment in the amount of \$400.00 and a fine in the amount of \$5,000.

- (4) On or about August 22, 2024, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit issued an Opinion and Judgment in the appeal styled *United States of America, Plaintiff-Appellee v. Richard Plezia, Defendant-Appellant*, Case No. 23-20483, vacating the judgment of conviction as to Count Five (false statement in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001(a)(2)), remanding with instructions for the district court to dismiss that count with prejudice, and affirming Respondent's judgment of conviction as to Counts One (conspiracy to defraud the government in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371), Six (false statement in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001(a)(2)), and Seven (falsification of records in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1519).
- (5) On or about August 22, 2024, the Fifth Circuit issued its Mandate affirming in part and vacating in part Respondent's conviction, and remanding the cause to the district court for further proceedings.
- (6) On or about September 4, 2024, the United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, Houston Division, entered an Amended Judgment in a Criminal Case in Cause No. 4:19-CR-00450-005, styled *United States of America v. Richard Plezia*, stating that Respondent was found guilty of Count 1SS (conspiracy to defraud the United States in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371), Count 6SS (false statement in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001(a)(2)), and Count 7SS (falsification of records in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1519).
- (7) Under the Amended Judgment, Respondent was ordered committed to the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons for a term consisting of six (6) months and one (1) day as to each of Counts 1SS, 6SS, and 7SS, to run concurrently, for a total of six (6) months and one (1) day. Upon release from imprisonment, Respondent was ordered to be on supervised release for a term of two (2) years. Respondent was further ordered to pay an assessment in the amount of \$300.00 and a fine in the amount of \$5,000.
- (8) Petitioner filed its Motion for Entry of Judgment of Disbarment on or about March 5, 2025, and Respondent's counsel accepted service by email that same day.
- (9) On April 8, 2025, the Board issued an Order stating that Respondent failed to file a verified denial contesting finality of the judgment of conviction, and setting this compulsory discipline case for disposition without hearing in accordance with Texas Rule of Disciplinary Procedure 8.05.
- (10) Respondent, Richard Plezia, is the same person as the Richard Plezia who is the subject of the orders entered above by the United States District Court,

Southern District of Texas, Houston Division, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Conclusions of Law. Based upon the foregoing findings of fact, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals makes the following conclusions of law:

- (1) The Board retains jurisdiction to enter a final judgment in this matter. TEX. RULES DISCIPLINARY P. R. 8.04-06.
- (2) As found in the Board's Interlocutory Order of Suspension, issued March 28, 2024, Respondent, Richard Plezia, has been convicted of 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) Respondent's conviction, for which he was sentenced in the United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, Houston Division, has become final and is not subject to further appeal. BODA INTERNAL PROCEDURAL RULE 6.02(a).
- (4) Because Respondent's sentence was not fully probated, the Board does not have discretion to suspend Respondent's license. See *In re Caballero*, 272 S.W.3d 595, 601 (Tex. 2008); see TEX. RULES DISCIPLINARY P. R. 8.05, 8.06.
- (5) Respondent, Richard Plezia, therefore, must be disbarred. TEX. RULES DISCIPLINARY P. R. 8.05, 8.06.
- (6) Petitioner's Motion for Entry of Judgment of Disbarment shall be granted. TEX. RULES DISCIPLINARY P. R. 8.05.

Disbarment

The Board has determined that disbarment of Respondent is appropriate. It is, therefore, accordingly, **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED** that Respondent, Richard Plezia, State Bar No. 16072800, 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, Richard Plezia, 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, Richard Plezia, 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, Richard Plezia, 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 signing 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 files, 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 files, papers, monies, or other property.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Richard Plezia, shall, on or before thirty (30) days from the signing 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 is representing.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Richard Plezia, 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 signing of this judgment by the Board, an affidavit stating that each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, administrative judge or officer, and chief justice has received written notice of the terms of this judgment.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Richard Plezia, shall immediately surrender his Texas law license and permanent State Bar Card to the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, Statewide Compliance Monitor, State Bar of Texas, P. O. Box 12487, Austin, Texas 78711, 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 1st day of May 2025.



CHAIR PRESIDING

Board member Scott Fredricks did not participate in this decision.