

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

IN THE MATTER OF	§	
CRAIG BRYAN SOKOLOW	§	DOCKET NO. 07285
STATE BAR CARD NO. 18824600	§	

JUDGMENT OF DISBARMENT

On the 22nd day of August, 2008, the above-styled and numbered disciplinary action was called for hearing before the Board of Disciplinary Appeals to consider the Motion for Entry of Judgment of Disbarment filed by Petitioner, Commission for Lawyer Discipline of the State Bar of Texas, against Respondent, Craig Bryan Sokolow. Petitioner appeared by Austin Regional Counsel, Laura Bayouth Popps, and announced ready. Respondent Craig Sokolow, although having responded to the Motion by counsel, did not appear. All issues of fact and all questions of law were submitted to the Board to determine. Having considered the pleadings, the evidence, and the argument of counsel, the Board finds that:

- (1) It has continuing jurisdiction of this matter pursuant to Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure 8.05 (“TRDP”);
- (2) The United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit affirmed Respondent Craig Bryan Sokolow’s criminal conviction on July 26, 1996 and issued its Judgment indicating that the decision was final on or about September 24, 1996;
- (3) Petitioner filed its Motion for Entry of Judgment of Disbarment on or about April 28, 2008, and served same on Respondent in accordance with TRDP 8.05;
- (4) Respondent’s conviction for the commission of an Intentional Crime as defined by TRDP 1.06(T) and of a Serious Crime as defined by TRDP 1.06(Z), for which he was sentenced in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, has become final and is not subject to further direct appeal;
- (5) Respondent has asked that the disbarment be made retroactive and effective the date

that the criminal conviction became final on September 24, 1996;

- (6) Petitioner failed to provide satisfactory explanation for the delay in filing its motion for entry of final judgment once the criminal judgment became final;
- (7) Petitioner does not agree to making the date of the disbarment effective as of September 24, 1996, but does not object thereto.

Interlocutory Suspension

Following a hearing on the 29th day of September 1995, at which Petitioner Commission for Lawyer Discipline of the State Bar of Texas appeared by attorney and announced ready and Respondent, Craig Bryan Sokolow, though duly cited to appear, did not appear and wholly made default, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals entered an Interlocutory Order of Suspension on or about October 3, 1995, which included the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

- (1) Respondent, Craig Bryan Sokolow, is an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Texas and a member of the State Bar of Texas whose State Bar Card No. is 18824600;
- (2) On March 18, 1994, Respondent was convicted of 107 counts of mail fraud, aiding and abetting, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1341, and 17 counts of engaging in monetary actions in property derived from specified unlawful activity, aiding and abetting in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1957(a), in Cause Number 2:93CR00394-1, styled, *United States of America v. Craig B. Sokolow*, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. On or about April 11, 1995, Respondent was sentenced to sixty (60) months imprisonment as to counts 1 through 3, 5 through 76, and 94 through 125, to run concurrently, and ninety-two (92) months imprisonment as to counts 126 through 142, to run concurrently with each other and concurrently with the sixty (60) month sentence imposed on the other counts, to be followed by a period of supervised release for a term of three (3) years. Respondent was ordered to make restitution totaling \$690,246.34 and to pay a fine in the amount of \$50,000.00, and further was barred for period of ten (10) years from being an attorney or consultant or an officer or employee of any health insurance program. (The Judgment entered in the Sokolow criminal case being hereinafter referred to as "Sokolow" criminal judgment");
- (3) The sentence described above is not fully probated;
- (4) Respondent, Craig Bryan Sokolow, is the same person as the Craig Bryan Sokolow

who is the subject of the Sokolow criminal judgment; and

- (5) An appeal has been taken from the Sokolow criminal judgment by Respondent, Craig Bryan Sokolow;
- (6) This Board has jurisdiction to hear and determine this matter. Rule 7.08(G), Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure;
- (7) Respondent, Craig Bryan Sokolow, has been convicted of an intentional crime as defined by Rule 1.06(O), Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure;
- (8) Respondent, Craig Bryan Sokolow, should be suspended as an attorney licensed to practice law in Texas during the appeal of his conviction. Rule 8.04, Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure; and

Disbarment

Having been convicted of an Intentional Crime and sentenced to a term of incarceration, and the conviction being final, Respondent should be disbarred. TRDP 8.05; 8.06. It is, therefore, accordingly, **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED** that Respondent Craig Bryan Sokolow, State Bar No. 18824600, be and he 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, and the disbarment is made effective as of September 24, 1996.

It is further **ORDERED, ADJUDGED** and **DECREED** that Respondent, Craig Bryan Sokolow, is hereafter permanently prohibited, effective immediately, 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," "counselor," or "lawyer."


It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Craig Bryan Sokolow, not later than thirty (30) days from the date of the entry of this judgment, shall notify in writing each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, and chief justice of each and every court, if any, in which Respondent 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, Craig Bryan Sokolow, shall immediately notify each of his current clients, 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 properties which are in his possession but which belong to current or former clients, if any, to those respective clients or former clients within thirty (30) days after the date on which this Judgment is signed by the Board. Respondent is further **ORDERED** to file with this Board, within the same thirty (30) days, an affidavit stating that all current clients have been notified of his disbarment and that all files, papers, unearned fees paid in advance, and all other monies and properties belonging to clients 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 his inability to return to said client any file, paper, money or other property. Respondent is also **ORDERED** to mail a copy of said affidavit and copies of all notification letters to clients, 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, Craig Bryan Sokolow, if he has not already done so, 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, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711.

Signed this 26th day of August 2008.



CHAIR PRESIDING