

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

IN THE MATTER OF	§	
GEORGE HILL WATSON	§	CAUSE NO. 43195
STATE BAR CARD NO. 20938200	§	

JUDGMENT OF DISBARMENT

On the 12th day of December 2008, the above-styled and numbered disciplinary action was called for hearing before the Board of Disciplinary Appeals. Petitioner Commission for Lawyer Discipline of the State Bar of Texas appeared by attorney and announced ready. Respondent, George Hill Watson, although duly cited to appear and having notice of the hearing, failed to answer or appear and wholly made default. All issues of fact as well as all questions 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 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, George Hill Watson, State Bar Card Number 20938200, is licensed but is administratively suspended for failure to pay bar dues and the Texas Attorney Occupation Tax and is therefore not currently authorized to practice law in the State of Texas by the Supreme Court of Texas.
- (2) On January 8, 2008, Respondent was charged by Indictment with 26 counts of Conspiracy, False Statement Related to a Loan, Wire Fraud, Receipt of Commissions or Gifts for Loans, and Money Laundering in Case No. A-08-CR-001(3)-SS, styled *United States of America v. Cornelius Robinson (1) Sylvia Seelig (2), George H. Watson (3), James Douglas Atwood (4), Michael Breon (5), Leonard Brown (6), Doris Ann Hill (7), Julius Meyers Lofton (8), Stanley Ma (9), Roy Rivers (10), Danielle Guice Rosas (11), Russell Snead (12), Sindhu Sukumaran (13), Marlon Nathan Torres (14), Jeffery Andre Wilkins (15), Leroy Williams (16)*, in the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, Austin Division.

- (3) On March 3, 2008, a Plea Agreement was entered in Criminal No. A-08-CR-001(3)-SS, styled *United States of America v. George H. Watson*, in the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, Austin Division, wherein Respondent pled guilty to Count One of the Indictment charging him with Conspiracy to violate federal law in violation of 18 U.S.C §§ 371 and § 1014 (False Statement Related to a Loan), § 1343 (Wire Fraud), and § 1349 (Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud).
- (4) On July 7, 2008, a Judgment in a Criminal Case was signed in Case No. A-08-CR-001(3)-SS styled, *United States of America v. George H. Watson*, in the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, Austin Division, adjudging Respondent guilty of Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud and Conspiracy to Violate Federal Law, namely False Statement Related to a Loan. Respondent was committed to the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a total term of fifty-seven (57) months with supervised release for five (5) years thereafter, ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$448,164.44, and ordered to pay an Assessment of \$100.00.
- (5) Respondent, George Hill Watson, is the same person as the George H. Watson who is the subject of the Judgment described above.
- (6) Respondent's criminal sentence is not fully probated.
- (7) The criminal conviction is final.
- (8) Respondent, George Hill Watson, was personally served with the Petition for Compulsory Discipline and hearing notice on October 30, 2008, and the affidavit of proof of service was filed with this Board on November 19, 2008.

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. Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure ("TRDP") Rule 7.08(G).
- (2) Having been convicted of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and conspiracy to violate federal law (false statement related to a loan), Respondent, George Hill Watson, has been convicted for purposes of TRDP 8.04 of Intentional Crimes as defined by TRDP 1.06(T) which are also Serious crimes as defined by TRDP 1.06(Z).
- (3) Because the criminal conviction is not fully probated, Respondent, George Hill Watson, should be disbarred. TRDP 8.05.

It is, accordingly, **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED** that Respondent, George Hill Watson, State Bar Card No. 20938200, 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.

It is further **ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED** that Respondent, George Hill Watson, 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 not completed prior to the date of this judgment, 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, George Hill Watson, shall notify in writing, no later than thirty (30) days from the date of this Order, each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, and chief justice of each and every court in which Respondent, George Hill Watson, 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, George Hill Watson, 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 the Statewide Compliance Monitor Statewide Compliance Monitor, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 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 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, George Hill Watson, immediately surrender his Texas law license and permanent State Bar Card to the Statewide Compliance Monitor, Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, Texas 78711, for transmittal to the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas.

Signed this 22nd day of December 2008



CHAIRMAN PRESIDING