

The Supreme Court of Ohio

CASE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

May 6, 2005

[Cite as *05/06/2005 Case Announcements*, 2005-Ohio-2183.]

MOTION AND PROCEDURAL RULINGS

2004-0394. State ex rel. Dispatch Printing Co. v. Johnson.

In Mandamus. This cause originated in this court on the filing of a complaint for a writ of mandamus. Upon consideration of respondents' joint motion to extend time for oral argument currently scheduled for May 10, 2005,

IT IS ORDERED by the court that the motion be, and hereby is, granted to the extent that oral argument is extended to 20 minutes per side.

2005-0768. State ex rel. Foster v. Belmont Cty. Court of Common Pleas.

Belmont App. No. 04-BE-55, 2005-Ohio-1353. This cause was filed as a discretionary appeal and claimed appeal of right. Upon consideration of appellant's jurisdictional memorandum, it is determined by the court that this cause originated in the court of appeals and therefore should proceed as an appeal of right pursuant to S.Ct.Prac.R. II(1)(A)(1).

IT IS ORDERED by the court that the Clerk shall issue an order for the transmittal of the record from the Court of Appeals for Belmont County. Appellant shall file his merit brief within forty days of the filing of the record with the Clerk of this court, and the parties shall otherwise proceed in accordance with S.Ct.Prac.R. VI.

DISCIPLINARY CASES

1996-0297. In re Resignation of Renshaw.

By order dated March 6, 1996, the court accepted the affidavit of resignation of Robert E. Renshaw in which he acknowledged that the resignation was final, unconditional and irrevocable.

This cause came on for further consideration upon the filing by Robert E. Renshaw of an application for reinstatement. Upon consideration thereof, IT IS ORDERED by this court that the application be, and hereby is, denied.

2005-0646. Medina Cty. Bar Assn. v. Wootton.

On April 12, 2005, and pursuant to Gov.Bar R. V(5a)(A)(1)(b), relator, Medina County Bar Association, filed with this court a motion for interim remedial suspension pursuant to Gov.Bar R. V(5a), alleging that respondent, Arthur W. Wootton, has committed numerous violations of the Code of Professional Responsibility and he poses a substantial threat of serious harm to his clients and the public.

Upon consideration thereof and pursuant to Gov.Bar R. V(5a)(B), it is ordered and decreed that an interim remedial suspension be immediately entered against Arthur W. Wootton, Attorney Registration No. 0033387, last known business address in Valley City, Ohio, and that the suspension be effective as of the date of this entry, pending final disposition of disciplinary proceedings predicated on the conduct threatening the serious harm.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Arthur W. Wootton immediately cease and desist from the practice of law in any form and is hereby forbidden to appear on behalf of another before any court, judge, commission, board, administrative agency or other public authority.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, effective immediately, he be forbidden to counsel or advise, or prepare legal instruments for others or in any manner perform legal services for others.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that he is hereby divested of each, any and all of the rights, privileges and prerogatives customarily accorded to a member in good standing of the legal profession of Ohio.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to Gov.Bar R. X(3)(G), respondent shall complete one credit hour of continuing legal education for each month, or portion of a month of the suspension. As part of the total credit hours of continuing legal education required by Gov.Bar R. X(3)(G), respondent shall complete one credit hour of instruction related to professional conduct required by Gov.Bar R. X(3)(A)(1) for each six months, or portion of six months, of the suspension.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that respondent shall not be reinstated to the practice of law in Ohio until (1) respondent complies with the requirements for reinstatement set forth in the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio; (2) respondent complies with this and all other orders issued by this court; (3) respondent complies with the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio; and (4) this court orders respondent reinstated.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, sua sponte, by the court that within 90 days of the date of this order respondent shall reimburse any amounts that have been awarded by the Clients' Security Fund pursuant to Gov.Bar R. VIII(7)(F). It is further ordered, sua sponte, by the court that if, after the date of this order, the Clients' Security Fund awards any amount against the respondent pursuant to Gov.Bar R. VIII(7)(F), the respondent shall reimburse that amount to the Clients' Security Fund within 90 days of the notice of such award.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that on or before 30 days from the date of this order, respondent shall:

1. Notify all clients being represented in pending matters and any co-counsel of his suspension and his consequent disqualification to act as an attorney after the effective date of this order and, in the absence of co-counsel, also notify the clients to seek legal service elsewhere, calling attention to any urgency in seeking the substitution of another attorney in his place;
2. Regardless of any fees or expenses due him, deliver to all clients being represented in pending matters any papers or other property pertaining to the client, or notify the clients or co-counsel, if any, of a suitable time and place where the papers or other property may be obtained, calling attention to any urgency for obtaining such papers or other property;
3. Refund any part of any fees or expenses paid in advance that are unearned or not paid, and account for any trust money or property in his possession or control;
4. Notify opposing counsel in pending litigation or, in the absence of counsel, the adverse parties of his disqualification to act as an attorney after the effective date of this order, and file a notice of disqualification of respondent with the court or agency before which the litigation is pending for inclusion in the respective file or files;
5. Send all such notices required by this order by certified mail with a return address where communications may thereafter be directed to respondent;
6. File with the Clerk of this court and the Disciplinary Counsel of the Supreme Court an affidavit showing compliance with this order, showing proof of service of notices required herein, and setting forth the address where the affiant may receive communications; and
7. Retain and maintain a record of the various steps taken by respondent pursuant to this order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that respondent shall keep the Clerk, the Medina County Bar Association, and the Disciplinary Counsel advised of any change of address where respondent may receive communications.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, sua sponte, that all documents filed with this court in this case shall meet the filing requirements set forth in the Rules of

Practice of the Supreme Court of Ohio, including requirements as to form, number, and timeliness of filings.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, sua sponte, that service shall be deemed made on respondent by sending this order, and all other orders in this case, by certified mail to the most recent address respondent has given to the attorney registration office.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of this court issue certified copies of this order as provided for in Gov.Bar R. V(8)(D)(1), that publication be made as provided for in Gov.Bar R. V(8)(D)(2), and that respondent bear the costs of publication.

O'Donnell, J., not participating.