

ORDER OF THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Misc Docket No. 97- 9238

Appointment of a District Judge to Preside
in a State Bar Disciplinary Action

The Supreme Court of Texas hereby appoints the Honorable Leonard Giblin, Jr., Judge of the #252nd District Court of Jefferson County, Texas, to preside in the Disciplinary Action styled:

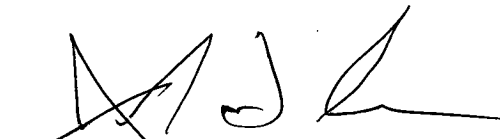
The Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. Clarence C. Felder

to be filed in a District Court of Bexar County, Texas.

The Clerk of the Supreme Court shall promptly forward to the District Clerk of Bexar County, Texas, a copy of this Order and of the Disciplinary Petition for filing and service pursuant to Rule 3.03, Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

As ordered by the Supreme Court of Texas, in chambers,

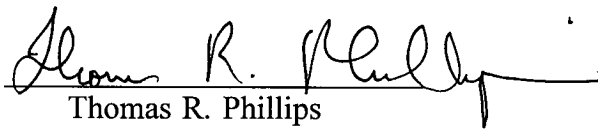
with the Seal thereof affixed at the City
of Austin, this 30th day of December, 1997.



JOHN T. ADAMS, CLERK
SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

This assignment, made by Misc. Docket No. 97-9238, is also an assignment by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court pursuant to Texas Government Code §74.057.

Signed this 5th day of January, 1998.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas R. Phillips", written over a horizontal line.

Thomas R. Phillips
Chief Justice

No. _____

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER
DISCIPLINE

V.

CLARENCE C. FELDER

§
§
§
§
§
§

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS

___TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DISCIPLINARY PETITION

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

Comes now, Petitioner, COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCIPLINE, a committee of the State Bar of Texas, complaining of Respondent, CLARENCE C. FELDER, and in support thereof would respectfully show the Court the following:

Parties

Petitioner is the COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCIPLINE, a committee of the State Bar of Texas. Respondent, CLARENCE C. FELDER, Texas State Bar Number 06884100, is an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Texas and is a member of the State Bar of Texas. Respondent is a resident of Bexar County, Texas. Respondent may be served at his place of business at 15227 San Pedro Avenue, San Antonio, Texas 78232.

Venue

Respondent's principal place of law practice is in Bexar County, Texas. Accordingly, pursuant to Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure 3.03, venue is proper in Bexar County, Texas.

I.

Petitioner brings this disciplinary action pursuant to State Bar Act, Tex. Gov't. Code Ann., Sec. 81.001, et seq. (Vernon 1988), the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct and the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. The complaint which forms the basis of this action was filed on or about June 4, 1997. The acts and conduct of Respondent, as hereinafter alleged, constitute professional misconduct.

II.

Federal District Court Case

Respondent was hired by Donald W. Muhammad, on or about February 26 1996, for representation in an employment discrimination case against Muhammad's employer, Pak-Mor Manufacturing Company. That case was filed by the Respondent on or about March 19, 1996 in the Federal District Court in San Antonio, Texas. Subsequent to the filing of that case, the Respondent neglected to respond to defendant's request for discovery and admissions. Such neglect resulted in a summary judgment being granted in favor of the defendant. Thereafter, the Respondent appealed the summary judgment, but such appeal was denied on December 13, 1996 for want of prosecution for failure of appellant to timely file the brief. Moreover, during the pendency of that case, the Respondent repeatedly failed to return the client's phone calls and other requests for information.

III.

State District Court Case

On or about May 16, 1996, the defendants in the Federal District Court case, Pak-Mor Manufacturing Co., filed a lawsuit, in the Bexar County State District Court, against Muhammad

for slander and defamation. The following day, Muhammad was served with the lawsuit along with discovery requests and requests for admissions. He immediately forwarded these documents to the Respondent who agreed to represent him in the defense of the case. During the course of the representation, the Respondent failed to answer the petition, failed to respond to discovery and failed to respond to requests for admission. Such neglect resulted in the entry of a default judgment, against Muhammad in excess of one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00). Moreover, during the pendency of that case, the Respondent repeatedly failed to return the client's phone calls and other requests for information.

IV.

The conduct of Respondent described above constitutes a violation of the following Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct:

Rule 1.01(b)(1) -- In representing a client, a lawyer shall not neglect a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer.

Rule 1.01(b)(2) -- In representing a client, a lawyer shall not frequently fail to carry out completely the obligations that the lawyer owes to a client.

Rule 1.03(a) -- A lawyer shall keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information.

Rule 1.03(b) -- A lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Petitioner prays that a judgment of professional misconduct be entered against Respondent imposing an appropriate sanction as the facts shall warrant and that Petitioner have such other relief to which it is entitled, including costs

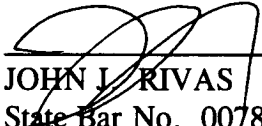
of court and attorney's fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Young
General Counsel

John J. Rivas
Assistant General Counsel

Office of the General Counsel
State Bar of Texas
425 Soledad, Suite 300
San Antonio, Texas 78205
Telephone: (210) 271-7881
Telecopier: (210) 271-9642



JOHN J. RIVAS
State Bar No. 00788285

ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER

STATE BAR OF TEXAS



**CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
P 583 840 683**

Office of the General Counsel
Regional Office
Soledad Plaza West
425 Soledad, Suite 300
San Antonio, Texas 78205
(210) 271-7881
FAX: (210) 271-9642

December 4, 1997

John T. Adams, Clerk
Supreme Court of Texas
P.O. Box 12248
Austin, Texas 78711

RE: Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. Clarence C. Felder

Dear Mr. Adams:

Enclosed please find an original and two (2) copies of a Disciplinary Petition being filed by the Commission for Lawyer Discipline against Clarence C. Felder. Mr. Felder has designated **Bexar County** as his principal place of practice. Request is hereby made that the Court appoint an active District Judge who does not reside in the Administrative Judicial Region in which Respondent resides to preside in this case. Upon appointment, request is made that you notify the Respondent at the address shown below and the undersigned of the identity and address of the judge assigned:

Clarence C. Felder
15227 San Pedro
San Antonio, Texas 78232

As a practical matter, I would respectfully suggest that you inquire with the judge to be appointed as to: (1) whether he or she will be able to comply with the 180 day deadline by which the case must be set for trial as set forth in Section 3.07 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure; and (2) whether he or she can accommodate compliance with Mellon Service Co., et al v. Touche Ross Co., 946 S.W.2d 862 (Tex.App.- Houston [14th Dist.] 1997), which requires that all proceedings incident to a case occur in the county of proper venue. If not, I would respectfully request that an alternate appointment be made.

Once a trial judge has been appointed, please forward the original and two (2) copies of the

Disciplinary Petition, the filing fee check, also enclosed herewith, and the Court's appointing order to the District Clerk of Bexar County, Texas, with the request that the suit be filed, service be obtained, and a filemarked copy of the petition returned to the undersigned.

Also enclosed are a pre-addressed envelope for your use in transmitting the petition, etc., to the District Clerk of Bexar County, Texas and a return envelope to be sent to the District Clerk of Bexar County, Texas, for the Clerk's use in returning a file-marked copy of the Petition to the undersigned.

Thank you for your courtesies in this matter.

Sincerely,



John Rivas
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosures

JJR/cah



THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

CHIEF JUSTICE
THOMAS R. PHILLIPS

POST OFFICE BOX 12248 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

CLERK
JOHN T. ADAMS

JUSTICES
RAUL A. GONZALEZ
NATHAN L. HECHT
CRAIG T. ENOCH
ROSE SPECTOR
PRISCILLA R. OWEN
JAMES A. BAKER
GREG ABBOTT
DEBORAH G. HANKINSON

TEL: (512) 463-1312
FAX: (512) 463-1365

EXECUTIVE ASS'T
WILLIAM L. WILLIS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASS'T
NADINE SCHNEIDER

JAN 09 1998

The Honorable David J. Garcia
District Clerk of Bexar County
100 Dolorosa Street
San Antonio, Texas 78205-1205

Dear Mr. Garcia:

Pursuant to Rule 3.03 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, I am sending for filing State Bar of Texas Disciplinary Action **each** styled: The Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. Clarence C. Felder, and a copy of the Supreme Court's orders **97-9238**, **97-9239**, and **97-9240**, appointing the Honorable Leonard Giblin, Jr., Judge of the 252nd District Court of Beaumont, Texas, to preside in this Disciplinary Action.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

John T. Adams
Clerk

cc: Hon. Leonard Giblin Jr.
Mr. Clarence C. Felder
Mr. John Rivas



THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

CHIEF JUSTICE
THOMAS R. PHILLIPS

POST OFFICE BOX 12248 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

CLERK
JOHN T. ADAMS

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EXECUTIVE ASST
WILLIAM L. WILLIS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASST
NADINE SCHNEIDER

JAN 09 1998

Mr. John J. Rivas
Assistant General Counsel, State Bar of Texas
425 Soledad, Suite 300
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Mr. Clarence C. Felder
15227 San Pedro
San Antonio, Texas 78232

Dear Mr. Rivas and Mr. Felder:

Pursuant to Rule 3.02 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, I hereby notify you that the Supreme Court of Texas has appointed the Honorable Leonard Giblin, Jr., Judge of the 252nd District Court, Beaumont, Texas to preside in each of the three disciplinary actions styled:

Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. Clarence C. Felder

Sincerely,

SIGNED

John T. Adams
Clerk



THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

CHIEF JUSTICE
THOMAS R. PHILLIPS

POST OFFICE BOX 12248 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

CLERK
JOHN T. ADAMS

JUSTICES
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EXECUTIVE ASS'T
WILLIAM L. WILLIS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASS'T
NADINE SCHNEIDER

JAN 09 1998

Honorable Leonard Giblin, Jr.
Judge, 252nd District Court
County Courthouse
P.O. Box 3707
Beaumont, Texas 77704

Dear Judge Giblin:

We enclose for your information a copy of the order of assignment, a copy of the Disciplinary Action, a copy of the notification letter to Mr. Felder and Mr. Rivas, and a copy of the letter to the District Clerk of Bexar County.

It is recommended that, six to eight weeks after receipt of this letter, you or your coordinator contact the Bexar County Administrative Office (210-220-2300) to find out the district court to which this disciplinary case has been assigned, names and addresses of counsel, etc. We then recommend that, either before or immediately after you set the case for trial, you contact the Presiding Judge of the Administrative Judicial Region into which you have been assigned (210-769-3519) to reserve a courtroom, obtain a court reporter, obtain claims forms for your expenses incident to presiding over this disciplinary case.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

John T. Adams
Clerk