

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

**IN THE MATTER OF  
RONALD B. MANNING  
STATE BAR CARD NO. 12940990**

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§

**CAUSE NO. 37444**

**JUDGMENT OF DISBARMENT**

**Interlocutory Order of Suspension**

On the 9th day of June 2006, the above-styled and numbered compulsory disciplinary action was called for hearing before this Board. Petitioner, Commission for Lawyer Discipline of the State Bar of Texas, appeared by Assistant Disciplinary Counsel and announced ready. Respondent, Ronald B. Manning, although duly cited to appear and having been notified of the hearing, failed to answer or appear and wholly made default. All issues of fact and all questions of law were submitted to this Board for determination. Having considered the pleadings on file, received evidence, and heard the argument of counsel, the Board made the following findings of fact:

- (1) Respondent, Ronald B. Manning, State Bar Card Number 12940990, is licensed but not currently authorized to practice law in the State of Texas due to an administrative suspension.
- (2) On July 15, 2004, Respondent, Ronald Manning, was charged by Indictment, with Theft in Cause No. 0994363, styled *The State of Texas v. Ronald Byran Manning*, in the 339th District Court of Harris County, Texas, (hereinafter called the "Manning" criminal case).
- (3) On or about September 16, 2005, a Judgment on Plea Before Jury Court/Jury Assessing Punishment was entered in Cause Number 994363, styled *The State of Texas v. Ronald Manning*, in the 339th District Court of Harris County, Texas, finding the Respondent guilty of Theft over \$200,000, a 1st Degree Felony. Respondent was committed

to the custody of the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to be imprisoned for a total term of 28 years. Respondent was also ordered to pay a fine in the amount of \$10,000.00 and to pay court costs in the amount of \$437.00. Respondent was further ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$1,236,823.95.

- (4) Respondent, Ronald B. Manning, is same person as the Ronald Manning, who is the defendant in the Manning criminal case no. 994363 and was convicted as set out above.
- (5) Respondent has appealed the criminal conviction.
- (6) Respondent's criminal conviction is not fully probated.
- (7) Respondent was personally served with the original Petition for Compulsory Discipline on April 6, 2006 as evidenced by the affidavit of the Bee County Sheriff filed with the Board on April 12, 2006.

Based upon the foregoing findings of facts the Board made the following conclusions of law:

- (1) This Board has jurisdiction to hear and determine this matter. Rule 7.08(G), Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure ("TRDP").
- (2) The crime for which Respondent has been convicted is an Intentional Crime as defined by TRDP 1.06(T), and is a Serious Crime as defined by TRDP 1.06(Z).
- (3) Having been found guilty and convicted of an Intentional and Serious crime and such conviction currently being appealed, Respondent, Ronald B. Manning, should be suspended as an attorney licensed to practice law in Texas during the appeal of his conviction. TRDP 8.04.
- (4) In the event that the conviction of Respondent, Ronald B. Manning, becomes final, Respondent, Ronald B. Manning, should be disbarred because his criminal sentence is not fully probated. TRDP 8.05.

As a result of the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, this Board

signed an Interlocutory Order of Suspension on June 15, 2006, which provided, in pertinent part, that Respondent's license to practice law would be suspended pending the outcome of his appeal of the conviction and that, upon conclusion of his appeal and in the event that the conviction became final, Respondent would be disbarred.

### **Motion for Entry of Final Judgment**

On the 2nd day of November 2006, came on to be heard Petitioner's Motion for Entry of Judgment of Disbarment. The Board makes the following additional findings of fact:

- (1) The Motion was filed with the Board on October 18, 2006 and served on Respondent in accordance with the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.
- (2) The Fourteenth Court of Appeals issued its Mandate affirming the judgment in the criminal case on or about September 8, 2006 in Cause No. 14-05-01084-CR.
- (3) As of the date of this judgment, Respondent has not responded to the Motion.
- (4) The criminal conviction has become final.

The Board, having considered such Motion and having made the above findings of fact, finds that said Motion should be in all things **GRANTED**.

### **Final Judgment of Disbarment**

It is, accordingly, **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED** that Respondent, Ronald B. Manning, State Bar Card No. 12940990, 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, Ronald B. Manning, 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 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, Ronald B. Manning, not later than thirty (30) days from the date 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 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, Ronald B. Manning, 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 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, Ronald B. Manning, immediately surrender his Texas law license and permanent State Bar Card to the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, P. O. Box 12487, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711, for transmittal to the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas.

It is further **ORDERED** that a certified copy of the Petition for Compulsory Discipline on file herein along with a copy of this Final Judgment of Disbarment be sent to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, Texas 78711.

Signed this 2nd day of November 2006.

  
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CHAIR PRESIDING