



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

IN THE MATTER OF §
DERRICK DUANE CORNEJO § **CAUSE NO. 60491**
STATE BAR CARD NO. 24048049 §

JUDGMENT OF SUSPENSION

On the 12th day of April 2019, the above-styled and numbered reciprocal 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, although duly cited to appear and having notice of the hearing, failed to answer or appear and wholly made default. All questions of fact as well as all issues 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, Derrick Duane Cornejo, whose Bar Card No. is 24048049, is an attorney licensed but not currently authorized by the Supreme Court of Texas to practice law in the State of Texas.
- (2) On or about August 28, 2013, a Complaint was filed in the Supreme Court of Colorado, Before the Presiding Disciplinary Judge in a matter styled, *Complainant: The People of the State of Colorado, Respondent: Derrick Duane Cornejo, #29438, 13 PDJ 066.*

- (3) On or about July 30, 2014, an Opinion and Decision Imposing Sanctions was filed in the Supreme Court of Colorado, Before the Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge in a matter styled, *Complainant: The People of the State of Colorado, Respondent: Derrick Duane Cornejo, #29438*, Case Number 13PDJ066.
- (4) On or about June 26, 2015, an Amended Order and Notice of Suspension was entered in the Supreme Court of Colorado, Before the Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge in a matter styled, *Complainant: The People of the State of Colorado, Respondent: Derrick Duane Cornejo, #29438*, Case Number 13PDJ066, that states in pertinent part as follows:

From June 2 through 4, 2014, the Hearing Board held a hearing pursuant to C.R.C.P. 251.18. On July 20, 2014, the Hearing Board issued an "Opinion and Decision Imposing Sanctions Pursuant to C.R.C.P. 251.19(b)," suspending Derrick Duane Cornejo ("Respondent") from the practice of law for a period of eighteen months. The Colorado Supreme Court affirmed the Hearing Board's decision on June 8, 2015.

Pursuant to C.R.C.P. 251.28(a), the Presiding Disciplinary Judge ("the Court") ORDERS that DERRICK DUANE CORNEJO, ATTORNEY REGISTRATION NUMBER 294381 IS SUSPENDED FROM THE PRACTICE OF LAW FOR A PERIOD OF EIGHTEEN MONTHS, EFFECTIVE JULY 23, 2015, and his name shall be stricken from the list of attorneys authorized to practice in the State of Colorado.

- (5) In the Opinion and Decision Imposing Sanctions, the Hearing Board found that Respondent knowingly violated his disciplinary order of suspension during a two-month period by negotiating a fee agreement, offering legal advice to clients, and holding himself out as authorized to practice law in Colorado in violation of the following Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct:

3.4(c) A lawyer shall not knowingly disobey an obligation under the rules of a tribunal except for an open refusal based on an assertion that no valid obligation exists;

5.5(a)(1) A lawyer shall not practice law in this jurisdiction without a license to practice law issued by the Colorado Supreme Court unless specifically authorized by C.R.C.P. 204 or C.R.C.P. 205 or federal or tribal law; and

8.4(c) It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in

conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

- (6) Respondent, Derrick Duane Cornejo, is the same person as the Derrick Duane Cornejo who is the subject of the Amended Order and Notice of Suspension entered in the Supreme Court of Colorado.
- (7) The Order entered in the Supreme Court of Colorado is final.
- (8) Respondent was personally served with the Order to Show Cause with Hearing Notice and Petition for Reciprocal Discipline on March 6, 2019 as shown in the affidavit of service filed with the Board on March 21, 2019.

Conclusions of Law. Based upon the foregoing findings of facts the Board of Disciplinary Appeals makes the following conclusions of law:

- (1) This Board has jurisdiction to hear and determine this matter. Rule 7.08(H), Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure ("TRDP");
- (2) Reciprocal discipline identical to that imposed in the Supreme Court of Colorado is warranted in this case.

It is, accordingly, ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Respondent, Derrick Duane Cornejo, State Bar Card No. 24048049, is hereby SUSPENDED from the practice of law in Texas for a period of eighteen (18) months beginning April 16, 2019 and ending October 15, 2020.

It is further ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that Respondent Derrick Duane Cornejo during said suspension is prohibited 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, Derrick Duane Cornejo, within thirty (30) days

of 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, Derrick Duane Cornejo, has any legal matter pending, if any, of his suspension, 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.

It is further ORDERED Respondent shall file with the Statewide Compliance Monitor, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701), within thirty (30) days of the date of this judgment, an affidavit stating Respondent has notified in writing each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, and chief justice of each and every court in which Respondent has any matter pending of the terms of this judgment, the style and cause number of the pending matter(s), and the name, address and telephone number of the client(s) Respondent is representing in Court.

It is further ORDERED that Respondent, Derrick Dune Cornejo, within thirty (30) days of the date of this judgment, shall notify each of his current clients and opposing counsel, if any, in writing, of his suspension. 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 of the date of this judgment if requested.

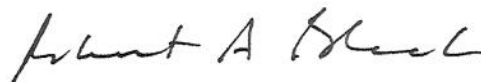
It is further ORDERED Respondent shall file with the Statewide Compliance Monitor, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701), within thirty (30) days of the date of this judgment, an affidavit stating all current clients and opposing counsel have been notified of

Respondent's suspension and that all files, papers, monies and other property belonging to all current clients have been returned as ordered herein. If Respondent should be unable to return any file, papers, money or other property requested by 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.

It is further ORDERED that Respondent, Derrick Duane Cornejo, within thirty (30) days of the date of this judgment, 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, for transmittal to the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas.

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

Signed this 16th day of April 2019.



CHAIR PRESIDING