

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

**IN THE MATTER OF
JULIANN KCENIA KARENKO
STATE BAR CARD NO. 24058887**

§
§
§

CAUSE NO. 60097

AGREED JUDGMENT OF SUSPENSION

On the 22 day of February 2018, the above-styled and numbered reciprocal disciplinary action was called for hearing before the Board of Disciplinary Appeals. Petitioner appeared by attorney and Respondent appeared pro se, as indicated by their respective signatures below, and announced that they agree to the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and orders set forth below. The Board of Disciplinary Appeals, having reviewed the file and in consideration of the agreement of the parties, 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, Juliann Kcenia Karenko, whose Bar Card No. is 24058887, is an attorney licensed and authorized by the Supreme Court of Texas to practice law in the State of Texas.
- (2) On or about May 8, 2017, a Complaint was filed in the Supreme Court of Florida, in a matter styled, *The Florida Bar, Complainant v. Juliann K. Karenko, Respondent*, The Florida Bar File No. 2016-00,635 (8A).
- (3) On or about September 13, 2017, a Conditional Guilty Plea for Consent Judgment was filed in the Supreme Court of Florida, in a matter styled, *The Florida Bar, Complainant v. Juliann K. Karenko, Respondent*, Supreme Court Case No. SC17-857, The Florida Bar File No. 2016-00,635 (8A).
- (4) On or about October 26, 2017, the Report of Referee Accepting Consent Judgment was filed in the Supreme Court of Florida, in a matter styled, *The*

Florida Bar, Complainant v. Juliann K. Karenko, Respondent, Supreme Court Case No. SC17-857, The Florida Bar File No. 2016-00,635 (8A).

- (5) On or about November 16, 2017, an Order was entered in the Supreme Court of Florida, in a matter styled, *The Florida Bar, Complainant v. Juliann K. Karenko, Respondent*, Case No. SC17-857, Lower Tribunal No(s): No. 2016-00,635 (8A), that states in pertinent part as follows:

...The uncontested report of the referee is approved and respondent is suspended from the practice of law for ten days...

- (6) In the Conditional Guilty Plea for Consent Judgment Respondent acknowledged that the following allegations provided the basis for respondent's guilty plea and for the discipline to be imposed:

Pursuant to the conduct listed below, Respondent has violated the following Rules Regulating The Florida Bar: 4-1.1 Competence; 4-1.3 Diligence; 4-1.4 Communication; 4-3.2 Expediting Litigation; 4-8.1 (a) Knowingly make a false statement of material fact; 4-8.1(b) Fail to disclose a fact necessary to correct a misapprehension known by the person to have arisen in the matter or knowingly fail to respond to a lawful demand for information from an admissions or disciplinary authority; and 4-8.4(g) Fail to respond, in writing, to any official inquiry by bar counsel or a disciplinary agency.

Robert Munsters ("Munsters") and his mother, Bertha Slagboom ("Slagboom") hired Respondent on December 15, 2014, to represent Slagboom in her divorce. After the initial meeting, Munsters and Slagboom had problems contacting Respondent, both by phone and email. Respondent had relocated to Texas without notice. After repeatedly calling and attempting to e-mail respondent, Munsters finally received an answer. On July 29, 2015, Respondent emailed Munsters a copy of Slagboom's prenuptial agreement, along with a request for documents. Respondent claimed that opposing counsel was not being cooperative. From the docket sheet, it appears that Respondent failed to file any discovery requests with the court, although Munsters stated that he was provided a copy. In September 2015, Munsters informed Respondent that he could no longer cover the monthly costs for his mother's care and that it was imperative something happen immediately or his mother would be forced to leave her assisted-living facility. In response, Respondent blamed opposing counsel, claiming that her calls and correspondence were not returned. Respondent also enclosed documents which she requested Munsters or his brother fill out. On October 5, 2015, Munsters requested his stepfather's financial assistance with Slagboom. His stepfather refused. Munsters' stepfather, however, agreed to assist with moving the divorce forward and to pass information to his attorney, Jennifer Henson. Ms. Henson replied that there was no correspondence from Respondent, including a September 12, 2015 letter that Respondent claimed she had sent. In October 2015, Munsters

informed Respondent that he had received an eviction notice from the assisted living facility, and his mother had 45 days to move. On March 9, 2016, Munsters received a phone call from Respondent, who told him that she thought he and his mother would be better served by a local Florida attorney. On March 11, 2016, Respondent filed Wife's Motion for Temporary Support and other relief with the court. On March 28, 2016, Munsters emailed Respondent, requesting all information on the case. On April 5, 2016, Munsters received a packet of incomplete documents from Respondent. Although Respondent, through her counsel, represented that significant legal work was performed, the record does not support that claim. After initially being hired in December 2014, Respondent, when contacted by Munsters in June 2015, had done nothing to advance Slagboom's case. In addition, contrary to Respondent's assertions that she provided Munsters with a financial affidavit for his mother at their first meeting, Munsters received nothing until September 2015. The affidavit was then completed and filed with the court by October 2015. Respondent first claimed that Munsters was notified of her move to Texas, then stated that he could have always reached her via email or cell phone. This assertion was not true. In her response to The Florida Bar's inquiries, Respondent asserted that she had ongoing communications with Munsters and had worked on Slagboom's case. From the documents supplied by both Munsters and Respondent, Respondent did not communicate with Slagboom or Munsters for approximately nine (9) months. In her response to The Florida Bar's request for more information, Respondent asserted that she provided Munsters with a copy of her e-mail and phone number. Respondent could not supply documentation supporting this assertion. Most recently, Respondent claimed that her computer crashed and she could no longer gain access to the documents.

- (7) Respondent, Juliann Kcenia Karenko, is the same person as the Juliann K. Karenko, who is the subject of the Order entered in the Supreme Court of Florida; and
- (8) The Order entered in the Supreme Court of Florida is final.

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;
- (2) Reciprocal discipline identical to that imposed by the Supreme Court of Florida is warranted in this case.

It is, accordingly, ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Respondent, Juliann Kcenia Karenko, State Bar Card No. 24058887, is hereby SUSPENDED from the practice of law in Texas for a period of ten (10) days beginning March 9, 2018 and ending March 18, 2018.

It is further ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that Respondent Juliann Kcenia Karenko during said suspension is prohibited from practicing law in Texas, holding herself 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 herself out to others or using her name, in any manner, in conjunction with the words "attorney," "counselor," or "lawyer."

It is further ORDERED that Respondent, Juliann Kcenia Karenko, 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, Juliann Kcenia Karenko, has any legal matter pending, if any, of her 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 State Bar of Texas, Statewide Compliance Monitor, 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, Juliann Kcenia Karenko, within thirty (30) days of the date of this judgment, shall notify each of her current clients and opposing counsel, if any, in writing, of her 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 her 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 State Bar of Texas, Statewide Compliance Monitor, 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 her inability to return to said client any file, paper, money or other property.

It is further ORDERED that Respondent, Juliann Kcenia Karenko, within thirty (30) days of the date of this judgment, surrender her 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.

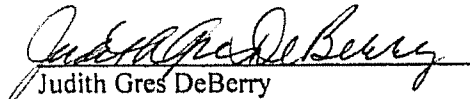
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Agreed Judgment of Suspension shall be made a matter of public record and be published in the Texas Bar Journal.

Signed this 22 day of February 2018.




Chair Presiding
BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Judith Gres DeBerry
Assistant Disciplinary Counsel
State Bar No. 24040780
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER



Juliann Kcenia Karenko
State Bar No. 24058887
RESPONDENT