



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

IN THE MATTER OF	§	
PAUL HOUSTON LAVALLE,	§	CAUSE NO. 64480
STATE BAR CARD NO. 11998625	§	

JUDGMENT OF DISBARMENT

On the 29th day of July, 2022, the above-styled and numbered disciplinary action was called for hearing before a panel of the Board of Disciplinary Appeals via remote connection. Petitioner, the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, appeared by attorney and announced ready. Respondent, Paul Houston LaValle, appeared *pro se* and announced ready. The Board of Disciplinary Appeals considered the Motion for Entry of Judgment of Disbarment filed in the above case by Petitioner. All questions of fact and 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 finds that:

- (1) The Board retains jurisdiction to enter a final judgment in this matter. TEX. R. DISCIPLINARY P. R. 8.04-.06.
- (2) The Fourteenth Court of Appeals issued a memorandum opinion in Case No. 14-20-00245-CR affirming Respondent, Paul Houston LaValle's, conviction and sentence on or about September 2, 2021.
- (3) The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals denied Respondent's Petition for Discretionary Review on November 3, 2021, and denied Respondent's Motion for Rehearing in Case No. PD-0752-21 on December 15, 2021.
- (4) The Fourteenth Court of Appeals issued a mandate affirming Respondent's conviction and sentence in Case No. 14-20-00245-CR on December 16,

2021, and denied Respondent's Emergency Motion to Recall and Stay Mandate on January 3, 2022.

- (5) On May 17, 2022, the Board entered an Interlocutory Order of Suspension, finding that on February 28, 2020, Respondent was convicted of Tampering with or Fabricating Physical Evidence, which is an Intentional and Serious Crime under TRDP 1.06 (V, GG). The Interlocutory Order of Suspension is incorporated by reference herein.
- (6) Respondent appealed the Interlocutory Order of Suspension in this matter to the Supreme Court of Texas in Case No. 21-0457. The appeal was dismissed for want of prosecution on December 3, 2021.
- (7) Petitioner filed its Motion for Entry of Judgment of Disbarment on or about June 14, 2022, and served same on Respondent in accordance with TRDP 8.05.
- (8) Respondent's conviction for the commission of an Intentional Crime as defined by TRDP 1.06(V) and for a Serious Crime as defined by TRDP 1.06(GG), for which he was sentenced in the 56th Judicial District Court of Galveston County, Texas, has become final and is not subject to appeal. BODA INTERNAL PROCEDURAL RULE 6.02(a).
- (9) Respondent's sentence was suspended pursuant to the trial court's decision to place Respondent on community supervision. Thus, the Board had discretion pursuant to TRDP 8.05 and 8.06 to enter an order of disbarment or suspend Respondent's license for the duration of the term of community supervision. *In re Caballero*, 272 S.W.3d 595, 601 (Tex. 2008).
- (10) The inquiry as to whether to disbar or suspend is governed by the factors expressed by the Board in *In re Isassi*, BODA Case No. 57699, 2017 WL 2293005 (May 8, 2017).
- (11) Petitioner's Motion for Entry of Judgment of Disbarment should be granted.

It is, therefore, accordingly, **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED** that Respondent, Paul Houston LaValle, State Bar No. 11998625, be and hereby is **DISBARRED** from the practice of law in the State of Texas, and his license to practice law in this state be and hereby is revoked.

It is further **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED** that Respondent, Paul Houston LaValle, is prohibited from practicing law in Texas, holding himself out as an attorney at law, performing any legal services 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 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, Paul Houston LaValle, shall immediately notify each of his current clients, if any, in writing of this disbarment. In addition to such notification, Respondent is **ORDERED** to return any files, papers, unearned monies, and other property, if any, which belongs to clients and former clients and is in Respondent’s possession or control, to the respective clients or former clients or to another attorney at the client’s or former client’s request, within thirty (30) days of the date of this judgment.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Paul Houston LaValle, shall file with the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel’s Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701) within thirty (30) days of the signing of this judgment by the Board, an affidavit stating that all current clients have been notified of Respondent's disbarment and that all files, papers, monies and other property belonging to all clients and former clients have been returned as ordered herein. If Respondent should be unable to return any file, papers, monies, 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, Paul Houston LaValle, shall, on or before thirty (30) days from the signing of this judgment by the Board, notify in writing each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, administrative judge or officer, and chief justice of each and every court or tribunal in which Respondent has any matter pending, if any, 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.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Paul Houston LaValle, shall file with the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701) within thirty (30) days of the signing of this judgment by the Board, an affidavit stating that each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, administrative judge or officer, and chief justice has received written notice of the terms of this judgment.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Paul Houston LaValle, immediately surrender his Texas law license and permanent State Bar Card to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, 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 Judgment, be sent to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, Texas 78711.

Signed this 5th day of August 2022.



CHAIR PRESIDING