

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

IN THE MATTER OF STACI JENNIFER STRONG

**CAUSE NO. 59903** 

State Bar of Texas Card No. 24037564

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## **DEFAULT JUDGMENT REVOKING PROBATION AND ACTIVELY** SUSPENDING RESPONDENT FROM THE PRACTICE OF LAW

On January 25, 2018, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals heard the Petition for Revocation of Probation filed by the Commission for Lawyer Discipline of the State Bar of Texas against Respondent, Staci Jennifer Strong, State Bar of Texas Card No. 24037564. Petitioner appeared by attorney and announced ready. Respondent, Staci Jennifer Strong, although duly served with the petition and cited to appear, failed to answer or appear. All issues of fact and questions of law were submitted to the Board. This Board has exclusive jurisdiction to hear a petition to revoke a probated suspension from the practice of law imposed by an evidentiary panel of the State Bar of Texas grievance committee during the full term of suspension, including any probationary period. Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure 2.23 ("TRDP"); In re State Bar of Texas, 113 S.W.3d 730,733 (Tex. 2003).

Having considered the pleadings, and having heard the evidence and the argument of counsel, the Board finds as follows:

- (1) Respondent, Staci Jennifer Strong, whose State Bar of Texas Card number is 24037564, is currently licensed and authorized by the Supreme Court of Texas to practice law.
- (2) Respondent was personally served with the Petition for Revocation of Probation and hearing notice in this cause by a duly authorized process

- server on January 3, 2018, in accordance with the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure 2.23 ("TRDP"). The affidavit of service was filed with the Board on January 10, 2018.
- On February 10, 2016, in a case styled, *Commission for Lawyer Discipline, Petitioner, v. Staci J. Strong*, SBOT Case No. 201501167, an Evidentiary Panel of the State Bar of Texas District 6 Grievance Committee found that Respondent had committed violations of Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct 1.14(a), 1.14(b) and 8.04(a)(3). Respondent received a sanction of a thirty (30)-month probated suspension beginning March 1, 2016, and ending August 31, 2018.
- (4) Respondent was ordered not to violate any term of the judgment.
- (5) Respondent was ordered to comply with Minimum Continuing Legal Education requirements.
- Respondent was ordered to pay restitution to Stewart Courington Dugger Dean, P.C., in the amount of Twenty-Five Thousand Three Hundred Fifty-Nine Dollars and Seventy-Seven Cents (\$25,359.67). The payment of restitution shall be made in twenty-eight (28) monthly installments, with the first twenty-seven (27) payments in the amount of Nine Hundred Ten Dollars and No Cents (\$910.00) and the twenty-eighth (28th) and final payment in the amount of Seven Hundred Eighty-Nine Dollars and Sixty-Seven Cents (\$789.67). Each payment is due on or before the fifth (5th) day of each month, beginning March 5, 2016, and ending June 5, 2018. The restitution payments shall be made by certified or cashier's check or money order, made payable to Stewart Courington Dugger Dean, P.C., and delivered to the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701).
- (7) Respondent violated the terms of this judgment by failing to timely pay restitution as detailed below.
- (8) Respondent failed to timely make restitution payments as required by the judgment. Specifically, the following payments towards restitution were made:

Payment Due	Payment Received	
March 5, 2016	\$910.00	March 9, 2016
April 5, 2016	\$910.00	April 27, 2016
May 5, 2016	\$910.00	May 5, 2016 (timely)
June 5, 2016	\$910.00	June 7, 2016
July 5, 2016	No payment received	
August 5, 2016	\$910.00	August 10, 2016

September 5, 2016	No payment received	
October 5, 2016	No payment received	
November 5, 2016	No payment received	
December 5, 2016	\$500	December 22, 2016
January 5, 2017	No payment received	
February 5, 2017	\$1100	February 2, 2017

- (9) Respondent made payments totaling \$6,150.00 but has made no payments since February 2, 2017. Respondent owes \$13,870.00 in past-due payments. The total amount of restitution remaining is \$19,209.67.
- (10) Respondent, Staci Jennifer Strong is the same person as the Staci J. Strong, who is the subject of the Evidentiary Judgment described above.

Based on these undisputed facts, the Board concludes that:

- (1) This Board has exclusive jurisdiction to hear a petition to revoke a probated suspension from the practice of law imposed by an evidentiary panel of the State Bar of Texas grievance committee during the full term of suspension, including and probationary period. TRDP 2.23; *In re State Bar of Texas*, 113 S.W.3d 730,733 (Tex.2003).
- (2) Respondent has materially violated the terms and conditions of the Agreed Judgment of Probated Suspension signed on February 10, 2016, in SBOT Cause No. 201501167.
- (3) Respondent should be actively suspended from practicing law for the full term of the suspension as originally imposed by the Agreed Judgment of Probated Suspension without credit for any probationary time served. TRDP 2.23.

It is therefore, ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED that Respondent, Staci Jennifer Strong, State Bar of Texas Card No. 24037564, be, and hereby is, actively SUSPENDED from the practice of law in the State of Texas for a period of thirty (30) months effective immediately on the date this judgment is signed and ending on July 24, 2020.

It is further ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that Respondent, Staci Jennifer Strong, 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, Staci Jennifer Strong, not later than thirty (30)

days 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, Staci Jennifer Strong, 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. Respondent is also ORDERED to mail copies of all such notifications to the Statewide

Compliance Monitor, Office of the Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487,

Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711.

It is further ORDERED that Respondent, Staci Jennifer Strong, shall immediately 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 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 suspension 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 her

In the Matter of Staci Jennifer Strong Default Judgment Revoking Probation and Actively Suspending Respondent from the Practice of Law 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

Statewide Compliance Monitor, Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, P.O.

Box 12487, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711.

It is further ORDERED that Respondent, Staci Jennifer Strong, immediately surrender

her Texas law license and permanent State Bar Card to the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel,

State Bar of Texas, for transmittal to the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas.

It is further ORDERED that this Default Judgment Revoking Probation and Actively

Suspending Respondent from the Practice of Law shall be made a matter of public record and be

published in the Texas Bar Journal.

Signed this **26** day of January 2018.

Kurif Kitner