# ORDER OF THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

# Misc Docket No. 97- 9194

Appointment of a District Judge to Preside in a State Bar Disciplinary Action

The Supreme Court of Texas hereby appoints the Honorable Billy John Edwards, Judge of the 104th District Court of Taylor County, Texas, to preside in the Disciplinary Action styled:

#### The Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. Lawrence W. Hitchery

to be filed in a District Court of Dallas County, Texas.

The Clerk of the Supreme Court shall promptly forward to the District Clerk of Dallas County, Texas, a copy of this Order and of the Disciplinary Petition for filing and service pursuant to Rule 3.03, Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

As ordered by the Supreme Court of Texas, in chambers,

with the Seal thereof affixed at the City of Austin, this 6th day of November, 1997.

JOHN J. ADAMS, CLERK SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS This assignment, made by Misc. Docket No. 97-9194, is also an assignment by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court pursuant to Texas Government Code §74.057.

Signed this (3 day of November, 1997.)

Thomas R. Phillips Chief Justice

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCIPLINE§IN THE DISTRICT COURT OFVS.§DALLAS COUNTY, TEXASLAWRENCE W. HITCHERY§JUDICIAL DISTRICT

NO.

#### **DISCIPLINARY PETITION**

#### TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

**COMES NOW** Petitioner, the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, a committee of the State Bar of Texas (hereinafter called "Petitioner"), complaining of Respondent, Lawrence W. Hitchery, (hereinafter called "Respondent"), showing the Court:

I.

Petitioner brings this disciplinary action pursuant to the State Bar Act, Tex. Gov't. Code Ann. §81.001, <u>et seq.</u> (Vernon 1988), the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct and the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. The complaint which forms the basis of the Disciplinary Petition was filed on or after May 1, 1992.

#### II.

Respondent is an attorney licensed to practice law in Texas and is a member of the State Bar of Texas. Respondent is a resident of and has his principal place of practice in Dallas County, Texas. An officer may serve citation on Respondent by and through his attorney, Mark A. Perez, at 2019 N. Lamar, Third Floor, Dallas, Texas 75202.

#### III.

On or about August 5, 1996, a complaint was filed against Respondent with the State Bar of

Lawrence W. Hitchery - Disciplinary Petition Page 1 of 3 Texas. On August 20, 1996, the State Bar of Texas sent, by certified mail return receipt requested, a letter to Respondent notifying him that a complaint alleging professional misconduct on his part had been filed against him. In said letter, Respondent was advised that, pursuant to Rule 2.09 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, he was required to file a written response with the State Bar of Texas within thirty (30) days of his receipt of the letter. Respondent received the letter on August 21. 1996, and failed to furnish the State Bar of Texas a written response to the complaint within the required thirty (30) days of his receipt of the notification letter, and he failed to timely assert a privilege or other legal ground for his failure to furnish his response.

IV.

Such acts and/or omissions on the part of Respondent as are described in Paragraph III, hereinabove, which occurred on or after January 1, 1990, constitute conduct which violates Rule 8.04(a)(8) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

#### V.

The allegation which forms the basis of the Cause of Action hereinabove set forth was brought to the attention of the Office of General Counsel of the State Bar of Texas as the result of a complaint filed against Respondent on or about August 5, 1996.

#### <u>PRAYER</u>

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Petitioner prays for judgment that Respondent be disciplined as the facts shall warrant; and that Petitioner have such other relief to which entitled, including costs of Court and attorney's fees.

Lawrence W. Hitchery - Disciplinary Petition Page 2 of 3

Respectfully submitted,

Steve W. Young General Counsel

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Angela Methvin Assistant General Counsel

State Bar of Texas Litigation - Dallas 3710 Räwlins Suite 800 Dallas, Texas 75219 (214) 559-4997 FAX (214) 559-4335

Angela Methvin State Bar Card No. 00792698

# ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER

Lawrence W. Hitcherv - Disciplinary Petition Page 3 of 3

# STATE BAR OF TEXAS



Office of the General Counsel

October 13, 1997

#### CMRRR NO. Z 339 406 539

John T. Adams, Clerk Supreme Court of Texas P.O. Box 12248 AUSTIN, TX 78711

#### **RE:** Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. Lawrence W. Hitchery

Dear Mr. Adams:

Enclosed please find an original and two (2) copies of a Disciplinary Petition being filed by the Commission for Lawyer Discipline against Lawrence W. Hitchery. Mr. Hitchery is a resident of Dallas County, Texas. Request is hereby made that the Court appoint an active District Judge who does not reside in the Administrative Judicial Region in which Respondent resides to preside in this case. Upon appointment, request is made that you notify the Respondent by and through his attorney, Mark A. Perez, at the address shown below and the undersigned of the identity and address of the judge assigned:

Lawrence W. Hitchery % Mark A. Perez 2019 N. Lamar, Third Floor Dallas, Texas 75202

As a practical matter, I would respectfully suggest that you inquire with the judge to be appointed as to whether he or she will be able to comply with the 180 day deadline by which the case must be set for trial set forth in Section 3.07 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. If not, I would respectfully request that an alternate appointment be made.

Once a trial judge has been appointed, please forward the original and two (2) copies of the Disciplinary Petition, the filing fee check, also enclosed herewith, and the Court's appointing order to the District Clerk of Dallas County, Texas, with the request that the suit be filed, service be obtained, and a file stamped copy of the petition be returned to the undersigned.

Regency Plaza, 3710 Rawlins, Suite 800, Dallas, Texas 75219 Telephone: (214) 559-4353 Fax: (214) 559-4335 John T. Adams, Clerk October 13, 1997 Page 2

Also enclosed are a pre-addressed envelope for your use in transmitting the petition, etc., to the District Clerk of Dallas County, Texas, and a return envelope to be sent to the District Clerk of Dallas County, Texas, for the Clerk's use in returning a file stamped copy of the petition to the undersigned.

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Thank you for your courtesies in this matter.

Sincerely, Angela/Methvin

Assistant General Counsel

Enclosures



# THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

POST OFFICE BOX 12248 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711 TEL: (512) 463-1312 FAX: (512) 463-1365

NOV 2 1 1997

CLERK JOHN T. ADAMS

EXECUTIVE ASS'T WILLIAM L. WILLIS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASS'T NADINE SCHNEIDER

CHIEF JUSTICE THOMAS R. PHILLIPS

JUSTICES RAUL A. GONZALEZ NATHAN L. HECHT JOHN CORNYN CRAIG ENOCH ROSE SPECTOR PRISCILLA R. OWEN JAMES A. BAKER GREG ABBOTT

> Ms. Angela Methvin Assistant General Counsel, State Bar of Texas 3710 Rawlins, Suite 800 Dallas, Texas 75219

Mr. Lawrence W. Hitchery c/o Mark A. Perez 2019 N. Lamar, Third Floor Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Ms. Methvin and Mr. Hitchery:

Pursuant to Rule 3.02 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, I hereby notify you that the Supreme Court of Texas has appointed the Honorable Billy John Edwards, Judge of the 104th District Court, Abilene, Texas, to preside in

Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. Lawrence W. Hitchery

Sincerely,

**JIGNE** 

John T. Adams Clerk



## THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

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NOV 2 1 1997

The Honorable Bill Long District Clerk of Dallas County George L. Allen Courts Building 600 Commerce Street Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Mr. Long:

Pursuant to Rule 3.03 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, I am sending for filing State Bar of Texas Disciplinary Action styled: <u>The Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. Lawrence</u> <u>W. Hitchery</u>, and a copy of the Supreme Court's order appointing the Honorable Billy John Edwards, Judge of the 104th District Court, Abilene, Texas, to preside in this Disciplinary Action.

Sincerely,

**BIGNED** 

John T. Adams Clerk

cc: Hon. Billy John Edwards Mr. Lawrence W. Hitchery Ms. Angela Methvin



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JUSTICES RAUL A. GONZALEZ NATHAN L. HECHT JOHN CORNYN CRAIG ENOCH ROSE SPECTOR PRISCILLA R. OWEN JAMES A. BAKER GREG ABBOTT

> Honorable Billy John Edwards Judge, 104th District Court 300 Oak Street Abilene, Texas 79602

Dear Judge Edwards:

We enclose for your information a copy of the order of assignment, a copy of the Disciplinary Action, a copy of the notification letter to Ms. Methvin and Mr. Hitchery, and a copy of the letter to the District Clerk of Dallas County.

We then recommend that, either before or immediately after you set the case for trial, the Dallas County District Court Administrative Office (214-653-6510) be contacted to reserve a courtroom, provide for a court reporter, etc. Finally, you should contact the Presiding Judge of the Administrative Judicial Region into which you have been assigned (214-653-2943) to obtain information on lodging, allowable expenses, and claims forms for your expenses incident to presiding over this disciplinary case.

Sincerely,

**BIGNED** 

John T. Adams Clerk