

ORDER OF THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Misc Docket No. 96- 9172

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

The Supreme Court of Texas hereby appoints the Honorable Terry A. Canales, Judge of the 79th District Court of Jim Wells County, Texas, to preside in the Disciplinary Action styled:

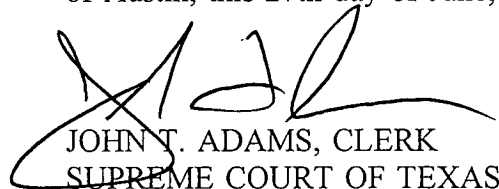
The Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. Corinna Steele

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

The Clerk of the Supreme Court shall promptly forward to the District Clerk of Harris 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 27th day of June, 1996.


JOHN T. ADAMS, CLERK
SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

This assignment, made by Misc. Docket No. 96-9172, is also an assignment by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court pursuant to Texas Government Code §74.057.

Signed this 27 day of June, 1996.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thomas R. Phillips". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Thomas R. Phillips
Chief Justice

COPY

CAUSE NO. _____

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER
DISCIPLINE

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§

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
HARRIS COUNTY, T E X A S

v.

CORINNA STEELE

_____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DISCIPLINARY PETITION

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

Petitioner, the COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCIPLINE, a committee of the State Bar of Texas, complains of Respondent CORINNA STEELE as follows:

I.

Petitioner brings this disciplinary action pursuant to the State Bar Act, Tex. Gov't. Code Ann. §81.001 *et seq.* (Vernon 1988 and Supp. 1994), and the State Bar Rules. The complaint that forms the basis of the Disciplinary Petition was filed 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 her principal place of business in Harris County, Texas. An officer may serve citation on Respondent at her business located at 3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 800, Houston, Texas 77027-6426.

III.

Respondent is an associate with the law firm of Heard, Goggan, Blair & Williams, a law firm which collects delinquent ad valorem taxes for the Houston Independent School District and for Harris County, Texas. Respondent filed a delinquent ad valorem tax suit in Cause No.

94025649 on June 3, 1994 against Roland Royce Rogers. This suit sought alleged delinquent taxes and an order authorizing foreclosure on certain real property owned by Mr. Rogers. Other entities were also sued as lienholders. These lienholders had liens against the real property sought to be foreclosed. If successful in the foreclosure, the liens would be extinguished and the lienholders lose their liens against the property. Complainant, Kenneth Kaye, represented two lienholders in the lawsuit, Mr. John Hart and Intercool Products, Inc. On April 28, 1995, Complainant filed an answer on behalf of Intercool Products, Inc. On May 5, 1995, Respondent received a second answer from Kenneth Kaye on behalf of John Hart. Complainant also attended several pre-trial hearings as attorney for John Hart and for Intercool Products. Respondent was present at those pre-trial hearings.

On June 20, 1995, both Respondent and Complainant appeared at a trial setting and spoke concerning the lawsuit. Despite this, Respondent sent a Notice of Trial Setting and Settlement Option Letter directly to Mr. Hart, Complainant's client, and did not send a copy of the Settlement Option Letter to Complainant. The Settlement Option Letter concerned the subject of the representation, and Complainant did not consent to Respondent's direct communication with his client.

IV.

The acts and/or omissions of the Respondent described in Paragraph III, constitute conduct in violation of Rules 4.02(a) [in representing a client, a lawyer shall not communicate or cause or encourage another to communicate about the subject of the representation with a person, organization or entity of government that the lawyer knows to be represented by another lawyer regarding that subject, unless the lawyer has the consent of the other lawyer or is

authorized by law to do so] and of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, and Part 1.06(Q) of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

V.

The complaint that forms the basis of this cause of action was brought to the attention of the Office of the General Counsel of the State Bar of Texas by Kenneth Kaye filing a complaint on or about December 11, 1995.

Prayer

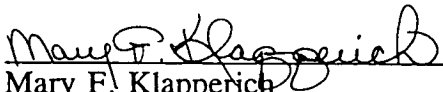
WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Petitioner the COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCIPLINE respectfully prays that this Court discipline Respondent Corinna Steele, by disbarment, suspension or reprimand as the facts shall warrant, and that the Petitioner have all other relief to which it may show itself to be justly entitled, including costs of court and attorney's fees.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. McCormack
General Counsel

Mary F. Klapperich
Assistant General Counsel

Office of the General Counsel
STATE BAR OF TEXAS
1111 Fannin, Suite 1370
Houston, Texas 77002
(713) 759-6931
Fax No. (713) 752-2158


Mary F. Klapperich
State Bar No. 11550700

ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER

STATE BAR OF TEXAS



Office of the General Counsel

May 31, 1996

Mr. John T. Adams, Clerk
Supreme Court of Texas
P.O. Box 12248
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. Corinna Steele

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 Corinna Steele. Ms. Steele is a resident of Harris 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 hereby made that you notify the Respondent at the address shown below and the undersigned of the identity and address of the judge assigned:

Ms. Corinna Steele
3535 Timmons Lane, Suite 800
Houston, Texas 77027-6426

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 Harris County, Texas, with the request that the suit be filed, citation be issued, and the citation, alone with a file-stamped copy of the petition, be returned to the undersigned.

I have enclosed a pre-addressed envelope for your use in transmitting the above reference documents, to the District Clerk of Harris County, Texas, and a return envelope to be sent to

Mr. John T. Adams, Clerk
Supreme Court of Texas
May 31, 1996
Page 2

the District Clerk of Harris County, Texas, for the Clerk's use in returning a file-stamped copy of the petition to the undersigned.

If you have any questions, please contact me. Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,



Mary F. Klapperich
Assistant General Counsel

MFK/lp
enclosures



THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

CHIEF JUSTICE
THOMAS R. PHILLIPS

POST OFFICE BOX 12248 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

TEL: (512) 463-1312

FAX: (512) 463-1365

CLERK
JOHN T. ADAMS

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

EXECUTIVE ASST
WILLIAM L. WILLIS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASST
NADINE SCHNEIDER

July 3, 1996

Mr. James M. McCormack
General Counsel, State Bar of Texas
P.O. Box 12487
Austin, Texas 78711

Ms. Corinna Steele
3535 Timmons Lane, Suite 800
Houston, Texas 7027-6246

Dear Mr. McCormack and Ms. Steele:

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 Terry A. Canales, Judge of the 79th District Court, Alice, Texas to preside in

Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. Corinna Steele

Sincerely,

SIGNED

John T. Adams
Clerk



THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

CHIEF JUSTICE
THOMAS R. PHILLIPS

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GREG ABBOTT

EXECUTIVE ASS'T
WILLIAM L. WILLIS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASS'T
NADINE SCHNEIDER

July 3, 1996

The Honorable Charles Bacarisse
District Clerk of Harris County
P.O. Box 4651
Houston, Texas 77210

Dear Mr. Bacarisse:

Pursuant to Rule 3.03 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, I am sending for filing State Bar of Texas Disciplinary Action styled: The Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. Corinna Steele and a copy of the Supreme Court's order appointing the Honorable Terry A. Canales, Judge of the 79th District Court, Alice, Texas, to preside in this Disciplinary Action.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

John T. Adams
Clerk

cc: Hon. Terry A. Canales
Ms. Corinna Steele
Mr. James M. McCormack



THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

CHIEF JUSTICE
THOMAS R. PHILLIPS

POST OFFICE BOX 12248 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

CLERK
JOHN T. ADAMS

JUSTICES
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NATHAN L. HECHT
JOHN CORNYN
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ROSE SPECTOR
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EXECUTIVE ASS'T
WILLIAM L. WILLIS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASS'T
NADINE SCHNEIDER

July 3, 1996

Honorable Terry A. Canales
Judge, 79th District Court
P.O. Box 1375
Alice, Texas 78333-1375

Dear Judge Canales:

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. Steele and Mr. McCormack, and a copy of the letter to the District Clerk of Harris County.

It is recommended that, six to eight weeks after receipt of this letter, you contact the Harris County District Court Administrative Office (713-755-7593) to find out the district court to which this disciplinary case has been assigned. We then recommend that, either before or immediately after you set the case for trial, you again contact the Harris County District Court Administrative Office (713-755-6593) 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 (713-471-3911) to obtain information on lodging, allowable expenses, and claims forms for your expenses incident to presiding over this disciplinary case.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

John T. Adams
Clerk