

ORDER OF THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Misc Docket No. 97-9239

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

The Supreme Court of Texas hereby appoints the Honorable Leonard Giblin, Jr., Judge of the 252nd District Court of Jefferson County, Texas, to preside in the Disciplinary Action styled:

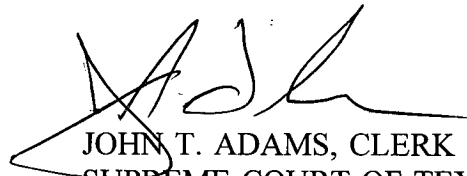
The Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. Clarence C. Felder

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

The Clerk of the Supreme Court shall promptly forward to the District Clerk of Bexar 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,

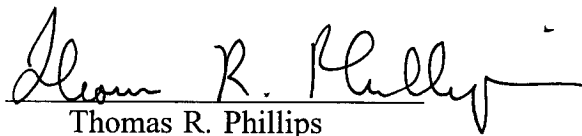
with the Seal thereof affixed at the City
of Austin, this 30th day of December, 1997.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Adams', is written over the typed name and title.

JOHN T. ADAMS, CLERK
SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

This assignment, made by Misc. Docket No. 97-9239, is also an assignment by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court pursuant to Texas Government Code §74.057.

Signed this 5 day of January, 1998.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thomas R. Phillips", with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Thomas R. Phillips
Chief Justice

No. _____

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCIPLINE	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
	§	
V.	§	BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS
	§	
CLARENCE C. FELDER	§	___TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DISCIPLINARY PETITION

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

Comes now, Petitioner, COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCIPLINE, a committee of the State Bar of Texas, complaining of Respondent, CLARENCE C. FELDER, and in support thereof would respectfully show the Court the following:

Parties

Petitioner is the COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCIPLINE, a committee of the State Bar of Texas. Respondent, CLARENCE C. FELDER, Texas State Bar Number 06884100, is an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Texas and is a member of the State Bar of Texas. Respondent is a resident of Bexar County, Texas. Respondent may be served at his place of business at 15227 San Pedro Avenue, San Antonio, Texas 78232.

Venue

Respondent's principal place of law practice is in Bexar County, Texas. Accordingly, pursuant to Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure 3.03, venue is proper in Bexar County, Texas.

I.

Petitioner brings this disciplinary action pursuant to State Bar Act, Tex. Gov't. Code Ann., Sec. 81.001, et seq. (Vernon 1988), the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct and the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. The complaints which form the basis of this action was filed on or about March 25, 1997 by John A. Heller and on July 2, 1997 by Jason E. French. The acts and conduct of Respondent, as hereinafter alleged, constitute professional misconduct.

II.

Count 1 -- John A. Heller

John A. Heller is an attorney practicing in Bexar County, Texas. Heller represented the defendant in a case styled *McKinney v. KBLCOM, a.k.a. Paragon Cable*. The Respondent represented the plaintiff, Michael McKinney, in the same case. During the course of the Respondent's representation of McKinney, on or about February 28, 1997, the Respondent forged the client's signature to an Acknowledgment to the Affidavit of Michael McKinney, filed in support of Plaintiff's response to Defendant's Motion for Summary Judgment.

III.

The conduct of Respondent described above constitutes a violation of the following Texas Disciplinary Rule of Professional Conduct:

Rule 8.04(a)(3) -- A lawyer shall not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

IV.

Count 2 -- Jason French

On or about March 16, 1995, Jason E. French and his father, James French, hired the Respondent for representation in a property damage matter. On October 20, 1995, the Respondent filed suit in Bexar County State District Court against Jose Palemon and Mario Torres. During the course of the representation, on or about March 23, 1996, the Respondent forged both clients' names, to Affidavits filed in support of Plaintiff's Response to Defendant Mario Torres' Motion for Summary Judgment. In addition, the Respondent failed to keep his clients advised of the status of the representation and failed to respond to reasonable requests for information from the clients.

V.

The conduct of Respondent described above constitutes a violation of the following Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct:

Rule 1.03(a) -- A lawyer shall keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information.

Rule 1.03(b) -- A lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation.

Rule 8.04(a)(3) -- A lawyer shall not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Petitioner prays that a judgment of professional misconduct be entered against Respondent imposing an appropriate sanction as the

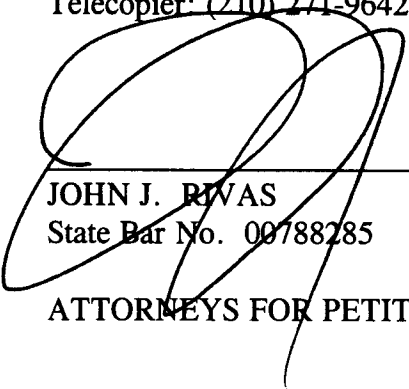
facts shall warrant and that Petitioner have such other relief to which it is entitled, including costs of court and attorney's fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Young
General Counsel

John J. Rivas
Assistant General Counsel

Office of the General Counsel
State Bar of Texas
425 Soledad, Suite 300
San Antonio, Texas 78205
Telephone: (210) 271-7881
Telecopier: (210) 271-9642



JOHN J. RIVAS
State Bar No. 00788285

ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER

STATE BAR OF TEXAS



**CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
P 583 640 681**

**Office of the General Counsel
Regional Office
Soledad Plaza West
425 Soledad, Suite 300
San Antonio, Texas 78205
(210) 271-7881
FAX: (210) 271-9642**

December 4, 1997

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

RE: Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. Clarence C. Felder

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 Clarence C. Felder. Mr. Felder has designated **Bexar County** as his principal place of practice. 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 at the address shown below and the undersigned of the identity and address of the judge assigned:

Clarence C. Felder
15227 San Pedro
San Antonio, Texas 78232

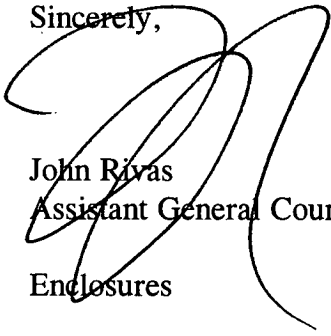
As a practical matter, I would respectfully suggest that you inquire with the judge to be appointed as to: (1) whether he or she will be able to comply with the 180 day deadline by which the case must be set for trial as set forth in Section 3.07 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure; and (2) whether he or she can accommodate compliance with Mellon Service Co., et al v. Touche Ross Co., 946 S.W.2d 862 (Tex.App.- Houston [14th Dist.] 1997), which requires that all proceedings incident to a case occur in the county of proper venue. 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 Bexar County, Texas, with the request that the suit be filed, service be obtained, and a filemarked copy of the petition returned to the undersigned.

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

Thank you for your courtesies in this matter.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

John Rivas
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosures

JJR/cah



THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

CHIEF JUSTICE
THOMAS R. PHILLIPS

POST OFFICE BOX 12248 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

CLERK
JOHN T. ADAMS

JUSTICES
RAUL A. GONZALEZ
NATHAN L. HECHT
CRAIG T. ENOCH
ROSE SPECTOR
PRISCILLA R. OWEN
JAMES A. BAKER
GREG ABBOTT
DEBORAH G. HANKINSON

TEL: (512) 463-1312
FAX: (512) 463-1365

EXECUTIVE ASS'T
WILLIAM L. WILLIS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASS'T
NADINE SCHNEIDER

JAN 09 1998

The Honorable David J. Garcia
District Clerk of Bexar County
100 Dolorosa Street
San Antonio, Texas 78205-1205

Dear Mr. Garcia:

Pursuant to Rule 3.03 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, I am sending for filing State Bar of Texas Disciplinary Action **each** styled: The Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. Clarence C. Felder, and a copy of the Supreme Court's orders **97-9238**, **97-9239**, and **97-9240**, appointing the Honorable Leonard Giblin, Jr., Judge of the 252nd District Court of Beaumont, Texas, to preside in this Disciplinary Action.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

John T. Adams
Clerk

cc: Hon. Leonard Giblin Jr.
Mr. Clarence C. Felder
Mr. John Rivas



THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

CHIEF JUSTICE
THOMAS R. PHILLIPS

POST OFFICE BOX 12248 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

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CLERK
JOHN T. ADAMS

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GREG ABBOTT
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WILLIAM L. WILLIS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASS'T
NADINE SCHNEIDER

JAN 09 1998

Mr. John J. Rivas
Assistant General Counsel, State Bar of Texas
425 Soledad, Suite 300
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Mr. Clarence C. Felder
15227 San Pedro
San Antonio, Texas 78232

Dear Mr. Rivas and Mr. Felder:

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 Leonard Giblin, Jr., Judge of the 252nd District Court, Beaumont, Texas to preside in each of the three disciplinary actions styled:

Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. Clarence C. Felder

Sincerely,

SIGNED

John T. Adams
Clerk



THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

CHIEF JUSTICE
THOMAS R. PHILLIPS

POST OFFICE BOX 12248 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

CLERK
JOHN T. ADAMS

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EXECUTIVE ASS'T
WILLIAM L. WILLIS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASS'T
NADINE SCHNEIDER

JAN 09 1998

Honorable Leonard Giblin, Jr.
Judge, 252nd District Court
County Courthouse
P.O. Box 3707
Beaumont, Texas 77704

Dear Judge Giblin:

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 Mr. Felder and Mr. Rivas. and a copy of the letter to the District Clerk of Bexar County.

It is recommended that, six to eight weeks after receipt of this letter, you or your coordinator contact the Bexar County Administrative Office (210-220-2300) to find out the district court to which this disciplinary case has been assigned, names and addresses of counsel, etc. We then recommend that, either before or immediately after you set the case for trial, you contact the Presiding Judge of the Administrative Judicial Region into which you have been assigned (210-769-3519) to reserve a courtroom, obtain a court reporter, obtain claims forms for your expenses incident to presiding over this disciplinary case.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

John T. Adams
Clerk