#### ORDER OF THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Misc. Docket No. 93-0121

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

The Supreme Court of Texas hereby appoints the Honorable Ann Tyrell Cochran, Judge of the 270th District Court, to preside in the Disciplinary Action styled:

## The Commission on Lawyer Discipline v. David K. Line

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.

In Chambers, this 28th day of June, 1993.

Thomas R. Phillips, Chief Justice

Raul A. Gonzalez, Justice

Jack Hightower, Justice

Nathan L. Hecht, Justice

Lloyd Doggett, Justice

Bob Gammage, Justice

Craig Enoch, Justice

Rose Spector, Justice

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COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCI	PLINE§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
v.	§ §	DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS
DAVID K. LINE	§ §	JUDICIAL DISTRICT

NO

#### **DISCIPLINARY PETITION**

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

Petitioner, the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, a committee of the State Bar of Texas (hereinafter called "Petitioner"), complains of Respondent, David K. Line (hereinafter called "Respondent"), showing the Court:

I.

Petitioner brings this disciplinary action pursuant to the State Bar Act, Texas Gov't. Code Ann. §81.001, et seq. (Vernon 1988), the Texas Rules of Professional Responsibility, and the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. The complaint which 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 a member of the State Bar of Texas. Respondent is a resident of and has his principal place of practice located in Dallas County, Texas. An officer may serve citation on Respondent at his business address located at 400 S. Zang Boulevard, Suite 1313, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas, 75208-6625.

III.

On or about September 16, 1987, Andy Dantzler (hereinafter called "Dantzler") hired Respondent to represent him in a claim for damages sustained on the premises of an apartment

complex. Respondent subsequently made several unsuccessful attempts to contact the purported owners of the premises where Dantzler sustained his injuries in order to notify them of Dantzler's claim. At no time did Respondent attempt to verify who the actual owners of the apartment complex were and whether or not he had sent the notice letters to the actual owners.

IV.

After having failed to elicit a response from the purported owners of the apartment complex, Respondent failed to take any further action to prosecute Dantzler's claim. On or about September 11, 1989, five days before the expiration of the statute of limitations, Respondent had Dantzler sign a release form terminating the attorney-client relationship. In addition, the release form exonerated Respondent and his firm for any liability for any acts or omissions with regard to legal services rendered to Dantzler. Respondent agreed to file the lawsuit on Dantzler's behalf in the event he could not find another attorney to represent him before the statute of limitations expired. Dantzler was not able to find another attorney, so Respondent timely filed the lawsuit; however, Respondent sued the wrong parties. Since the statute of limitations had already expired, Dantzler was not able hire another attorney to refile the lawsuit against the proper parties.

V.

Such acts and/or omissions on the part of Respondent as are described in Paragraphs III. and IV. hereinabove on the part of Respondent which occurred prior to January 1, 1990, constitute conduct violative of Disciplinary Rules 1-102(A)(6), 2-110(A)(2), 6-101(A)(2), 6-101(A)(3), 6-102(A), 7-101(A)(1) and/or 7-101(A)(2) of the Texas Code of Professional Responsibility. Such acts and/or omissions on the part of Respondent as are described in

Paragraphs III. and IV. hereinabove which occurred on or after January 1, 1990, constitute conduct violative of Rules 1.01(b)(1), 1.03(a), and/or 1.15(d) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

VI.

The complaint which forms the basis of the cause of action hereinabove set forth was brought to the attention of the office of the General Counsel of the State Bar of Texas by Andy Dantzler's filing of a complaint on or about September 21, 1992.

#### **PRAYER**

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.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. McCormack General Counsel

E. Lynn Rodriguez Assistant General Counsel

Office of the General Counsel State Bar of Texas P.O. Box 12487 Austin, Texas 78711 (512) 463-1381

E. Lynn Rødriguez

State Bar of Texas No. 17143880 ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER

GENERAL\LINE.2DP



## THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

**CHIEF JUSTICE** 

POST OFFICE BOX 12248

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

CLERK JOHN T. ADAMS

THOMAS R. PHILLIPS

TEL: (512) 463-1312

EXECUTIVE ASS'T. WILLIAM L. WILLIS

IUSTICES RAUL A. GONZALEZ IACK HIGHTOWER NATHAN L. HECHT LLOYD DOGGETT JOHN CORNYN **BOB GAMMAGE** 

CRAIG ENOCH ROSE SPECTOR FAX: (512) 463-1365

ADMINISTRATIVE ASS'T. MARY ANN DEFIBAUGH

July 6, 1993

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

Mr. David K. Line 400 South Zang Blvd., Suite 1313 Dallas, Texas 75208-6625

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCIPLINE V. DAVID K. LINE.

Dear Mr. McCormack and Mr. Line,

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 Ann Tyrell Cochran, Judge of the 270th District Court, Harris County Courthouse, 301 Fannin, Houston, Texas 77002, to preside in the above referenced action.

Copies of pertinent documents are enclosed for your use.

Sincerely,

John T. Adams

Encl.

cc: Hon. Ann Tyrell Cochran



## THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

CHIEF JUSTICE

THOMAS R. PHILLIPS

JUSTICES RAUL A. GONZALEZ JACK HIGHTOWER NATHAN L. HECHT LLOYD DOGGETT JOHN CORNYN BOB GAMMAGE CRAIG ENOCH ROSE SPECTOR

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CLERK

JOHN T. ADAMS

EXECUTIVE ASS'T. WILLIAM L. WILLIS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASS'T. MARY ANN DEFIBAUGH

July 6, 1993

The Honorable Ann Tyrell Cochran 270th District Court Harris County Courthouse 301 Fannin Houston, Texas 77002

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCIPLINE v. DAVID K. LINE.

Dear Judge Cochran,

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 the State Bar General Counsel and respondent's attorney in the referenced case.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

John T. Adams Clerk

Encl.



### THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

CHIEF IUSTICE

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ROSE SPECTOR

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASS'T. MARY ANN DEFIBAUGH

July 6, 1993

Hon. Bill Long District Clerk Dallas County Courthouse 600 Commerce Dallas, Texas 75202

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCIPLINE v. DAVID K. LINE.

Dear Mr. Long,

Pursuant to Rule 3.03 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, I am sending for filing, the State Bar of Texas Disciplinary Action referenced above and a copy of the Supreme Court's order appointing a judge to preside in this action.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

John T. Adams Clerk

Encl.

Hon. Ann Tyrell Cochran

Mr. David K. Line

Mr. James M. McCormack