

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Misc. Docket No. 03- **9147**

ORDER CREATING TASK FORCE ON THE TEXAS DISCIPLINARY RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

ORDERED that:

1. The Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct are intended to “define proper conduct for purposes of professional discipline” for attorneys practicing in Texas and before Texas courts.¹ Together with the comments to the Rules, they “constitute a body of principles upon which the lawyer can rely for guidance in resolving [issues of professional discretion] through the exercise of sensitive professional and moral judgment.”²

2. Since the last comprehensive overall of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct in January of 1990, much has changed in the ethical and legal landscape that governs the conduct of attorneys in Texas. Because the “body of principles” governing an attorney’s professional conduct may have become clearer, evolved or changed in the last 13 year as the result of decisions of legislatures or courts or by opinions and actions of the legal profession and their clients, it is prudent to review our Disciplinary Rules to ensure that our “rules of reason”³ remain rules of reason that provide useful guidance to attorneys seeking to adhere to the highest standard of the their profession.

3. Accordingly, the Court appoints members of the bench, bar and general public to review the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct. The members of the committee are to study the changes to the American Bar Association’s Model Rule of Professional Conduct, adopted February 5, 2002, and compare these changes with the current Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct as well as the rules of attorney conduct adopted by other states.. The Task Force is to advise this Court, in writing, of any changes it deems appropriate to improve the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

4. The Committee is chaired by Tom Watkins of Austin. Justice Michael Schneider is the

¹Paragraph 10, Preamble, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct

²Paragraph 7, Preamble, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct

³Paragraph 10, Preamble, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct

Court's liaison to the Committee. The Committee is asked to provide either a final report or a progress report including the estimated time of completion by February 1st, 2004. The committee members are:

Federal Prosecutors

Judge Robert Pittman (Austin)

Corporate Practitioners

Ken Raines (Dallas)

State Bar Chief Disciplinary Counsel

Dawn Miller (Austin)

Civil Trial Practitioners

Luke Soules (San Antonio)

Edurado Rodriquez (McAllen)

Texas Commission on Lawyer Discipline

Mark White (Amarillo)

Criminal Trial Practitioners

Vincent Perini (Dallas)

Rob Kepple (Austin)

Board of Disciplinary Appeal

Christine McKeeman (Austin)

Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism

Beryl Crowley (Austin)

Grievance Oversight Committee

Susan Saab Fortney (Lubbock)

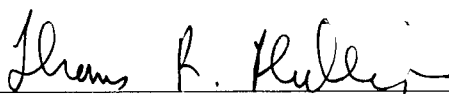
State Bar Committee on Disciplinary Rules

Robert Schuwerk (Houston)

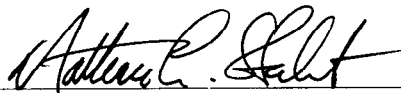
Public Member

Sarilee Ferguson (Waco)

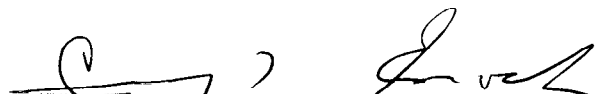
SIGNED AND ENTERED this 29th day of August, 2003.



Thomas R. Phillips, Chief Justice



Nathan L. Hecht, Justice



Craig T. Enoch, Justice



Priscilla R. Owen, Justice

Harriet O'Neill

Harriet O'Neill, Justice

Wallace B. Jefferson

Wallace B. Jefferson, Justice

Michael H. Schneider

Michael H. Schneider, Justice

Steven Wayne Smith

Steven Wayne Smith, Justice

J. Dale Wainwright

J. Dale Wainwright, Justice