

ORDER OF THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Misc Docket No. 99- 9182

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

The Supreme Court of Texas hereby appoints the Honorable Suzanne Stovall, Judge of the 221st District Court of Montgomery County, Texas, to preside in the Disciplinary Action styled:

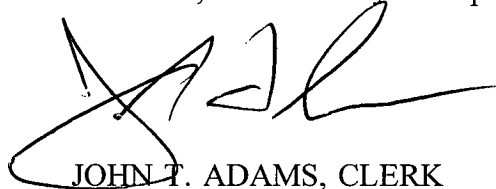
The Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. Robert A. Kugle

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,

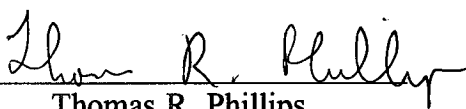
with the Seal thereof affixed at the City
of Austin, this 27th day of September, 1999.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Adams', written over a circular stamp or seal.

JOHN T. ADAMS, CLERK
SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

This assignment, made by Misc. Docket No. 99-9182, is also an assignment by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court pursuant to Texas Government Code §74.057.

Signed this 27 day of September, 1999.


Thomas R. Phillips
Chief Justice

No. _____

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER)	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
DISCIPLINE)	
)	
V.)	BEXAR COUNTY, T E X A S
)	
ROBERT A. KUGLE)	___TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

ORIGINAL 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, ROBERT A. KUGLE, 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, ROBERT A. KUGLE, State Bar Number 11755500, was, at the time the following alleged acts of professional misconduct occurred, an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Texas and a member of the State Bar of Texas. Respondent may be served with process at Riverview Towers, 111 Soledad, Suite 700, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas 78205, his usual place of business.

Venue

At the time the alleged professional misconduct occurred, Respondent maintained a law office in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The alleged acts of professional misconduct occurred in whole or in part in Bexar County, Texas. Accordingly, pursuant to Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure 3.03, venue is proper in Bexar County, Texas.

Discovery Level Designation

I.

Pursuant to Tex.R.Civ.P. 190.1, Petitioner designates that discovery in this action should proceed pursuant to Level 2 (Tex.R.Civ.P. 190.3).

Professional Misconduct

II.

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 complaint which forms the basis of this action was filed on or about September 1, 1998 by Nell Rose Franklin. The acts and conduct of Respondent, as hereinafter alleged, constitute professional misconduct.

III.

On or about April 1, 1997, Respondent was hired to represent Edward and Nell Franklin for Personal injury and property damage resulting from an oil well blowout occurring in Lee County, Texas that occurred on July 13, 1996.

IV.

During the representation of Mr. and Mrs. Franklin, Nell Franklin attempted to contact Respondent several times by telephone and left messages for Respondent to return her calls. Respondent has never returned the calls. Nell Franklin wrote several letters to the Respondent to which the respondent has not responded.

V.

During the pendency of Respondent's Law Firm's representation of Mr. And Mrs. Franklin, several attorneys who were assigned to the matter left the firm and other attorneys were assigned. The Respondent failed to advise Mr. and Mrs. Franklin of these changes in attorneys or in the change of their point of contact within the firm. Respondent failed to take reasonable steps to insure his clients were aware of the status of their case and the change in assignment of attorneys to permit informed decisions regarding representation.

VI.

The conduct of Respondent described above constitutes violations of the following Disciplinary Rules:

Rule 1.03(a) -- A lawyer shall keep a client reasonable 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.

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, litigation expenses and attorney's fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Miller
Acting General Counsel

Robert E. Kaszczuk
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



Robert E. Kaszczuk
State Bar No. 11106300

ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER

STATE BAR OF TEXAS



**CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
Z 292 150 059**

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

August 23, 1999

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

RE: Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. Robert A. Kugle

Dear Mr. Adams:

Enclosed please find an original and three (3) copies of a Disciplinary Petition being filed by the Commission for Lawyer Discipline against Robert A. Kugle. Mr. Kugle 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:

Robert A. Kugle
Riverview Towers
111 Soledad, Suite 700
San Antonio, Texas 78205

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 three (3) 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 handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert E. Kaszczuk".

Robert E. Kaszczuk
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosures

REK/ch



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

JUSTICES
NATHAN L. HECHT
CRAIG T. ENOCH
PRISCILLA R. OWEN
JAMES A. BAKER
GREG ABBOTT
DEBORAH G. HANKINSON
HARRIET O'NEILL
ALBERTO R. GONZALES

OCT 07 1999

CLERK
JOHN T. ADAMS

EXECUTIVE ASS'T
WILLIAM L. WILLIS

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE ASS'T
JIM HUTCHESON

ADMINISTRATIVE ASS'T
NADINE SCHNEIDER

Mr. Robert E. Kaszczuk
Assistant General Counsel, State Bar of Texas
425 Soledad, Suite 300
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Mr. Robert A. Kugle
Riverview Towers
111 Soledad, Suite 700
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Dear Mr. Kaszczuk and Mr. Kugle:

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 Suzanne Stovall, Judge of the 221st District Court, Conroe, Texas to preside in

Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. Robert A. Kugle

Sincerely,

SIGNED

John T. Adams
Clerk



THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

CHIEF JUSTICE
THOMAS R. PHILLIPS

POST OFFICE BOX 12248 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

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JIM HUTCHESON

ADMINISTRATIVE ASS'T
NADINE SCHNEIDER

Honorable Suzanne Stovall
Judge, 221st District Court
300 N. Main Street
Conroe, Texas 77301

Dear Judge Stovall:

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. Kugle and Mr. Kaszczuk, 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 (210-335-2300) 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



THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

CHIEF JUSTICE
THOMAS R. PHILLIPS

POST OFFICE BOX 12248 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

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FAX: (512) 463-1365

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EXECUTIVE ASS'T
WILLIAM L. WILLIS

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JIM HUTCHESON

ADMINISTRATIVE ASS'T
NADINE SCHNEIDER

03 07 1999

The Honorable Reagan Greer
District Clerk of Bexar County
100 Dolorosa Street
San Antonio, Texas 78205-1205

Dear Mr. Greer:

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. Robert A. Kugle*, and a copy of the Supreme Court's order appointing the Honorable Suzanne Stovall, Judge of the 221st District Court, Conroe, Texas, to preside in this Disciplinary Action.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

John T. Adams
Clerk

cc: Hon. Suzanne Stovall
Mr. Robert Edward Kaszczuk
Mr. Robert A. Kugle