IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE AT NASHVILLE

FILED
FEB 2 0 2003
Clerk of the Courts

TARA ELENA BAZZONE, BPR #18537

An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee (OUT-OF-STATE)

M2003-00395-SC-BPO-B1

BPR No. 2002-1338-9-JJ(4.3)

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

This matter is before the Court upon the petition of Disciplinary Counsel for the suspension of Tara Elena Bazzone, respondent, pursuant to Section 4.2 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9. The petition is based on respondent's self-report of misconduct and a complaint lodged against her by attorneys of the Glankler, Brown law firm. The petition has been authorized by the Chairman of the Board of Professional Responsibility.

The petition alleges, inter alia, that respondent fraudulently:

- back-dated the date of execution of a client's will and a revocable trust, and signed
 a false affidavit attesting that she had witnessed the execution of this client's will;
- b) prepared letters testamentary on March 29, 2001 setting forth that she and both of the client's daughters acted jointly as co-executrix in the client's probate estate after the client's death in February 2001 where no petition to admit the client's Last Will and Testament had been filed yet with the Shelby County Probate Court; and
- c) provided statements to the Shelby County Probate Judge to the effect that the client's will was properly executed in order to have the will admitted to probate in mid-April 2001.

Pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9 § 16.1, respondent has agreed to enter into a Conditional Guilty Plea to the petition in exchange for a one-year suspension. The following reflects the agreement:

- 1. Respondent pleads guilty to violating DR 1-102(A)(1)(4)(5)(6); DR 7-102(A)(3)(4)(5)(6)(8); and DR 7-106(C)(5), given her admitted misconduct as set forth above;
- 2. Respondent shall be suspended from the practice of law in this State for one year commencing ten days after the filing of any Order of this Court approving this plea, pursuant to Tennessee Rule of Supreme Court 9 § 18.5;
- 3. Respondent's law license will not be automatically reinstated after the expiration of the one year suspension period, but rather, she must file a petition for reinstatement

pursuant to Rule 9 § 19, and obtain an Order from this Court reinstating her law license before resuming the practice of law in this State; and

4. Respondent shall pay the Board's costs in this matter pursuant to Rule 9 § 24.3, and in addition, shall pay to the Clerk of this Court the court costs incurred herein.

Disciplinary Counsel and respondent considered the following as mitigating factors: a) respondent's self report and full admission of the allegations; b) her remorse; c) her lack of any prior disciplinary history; d) the emotional distress she experienced during the Winter of 2000 and Spring of 2001, given the loss of her job due to consolidation of Waring, Cox, and Glankler, Brown; and e) the fact that the fraud caused no loss to the heirs of the estate according to the investigation completed by Glankler, Brown (the heirs received exactly what they were entitled to had the will been properly witnessed).

The Court finds that the Petition establishes sufficient grounds for the suspension of Respondent's law license pursuant to Section 4.2, of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9.

It is therefore, ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED by the Court:

- 1. That Tara Elena Bazzone is hereby suspended for one year from the practice of law as provided in Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9 § 4.2.
- 2. That Tara Elena Bazzone shall comply with Supreme Court Rule 9 in all respects and particularly as provided in Section 18.
- 3. That Tara Elena Bazzone may make application for reinstatement after one year pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9 § 19.1.
- 4. Pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9 § 24.3, Tara Elena Bazzone shall reimburse and pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$477.00. In addition, she shall pay to the Clerk of this Court the costs incurred herein, for all of which execution may issue if necessary.

The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this suspension to be published as required by Rule 9.

FOR THE COURT:

ADOLPHO A. BIRCH, JR.

I, Cecil Crowson, Ir., Cierk, hereby certify that this is a type and exact copy of the original

this is a true and exact copy of the original filed in the cause.

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