## IN DISCIPLINARY DISTRICT V OF THE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SUPEREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

FILED

TOTAL 2 2022

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL PRESPONSABILITY

BUPPEARE COURT OF TENNESSEE

LINE COURT OF TENNESSEE

ENECUTIVE SECTORETY

**DOCKET NO. 2017-2721-5-WM-22.3** 

IN RE: ROBERT ALLEN DOLL, III, BPR #022764, Respondent, An Attorney License and Admitted to the Practice of Law in Tennessee (Davidson County)

## ORDER AND RECOMMENDATION

Following the entry of the Order and Recommendation of the Hearing Panel in the above styled matter on December 1, 2021 the Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Motion to Alter or Amend on December 2, 2021; the Respondent, Mr. Doll, filed his Response to the Board's Motion to Alter or Amend on December 17, 2021. Included in the same, was a request for hearing before a different panel. The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a reply to that response on December 21, 2021. The Hearing Panel has considered all of the filings of the parties and the following is our Order and Recommendation made without any oral argument as the same is not necessary.

As set out in the Order and Recommendation of the Hearing Panel filed

December 1, 2021 the Hearing Panel in this cause found that the Respondent, Robert

Allen Doll, III, was convicted of three serious felony offenses two of which involved subornation of aggravated perjury in a case where Mr. Doll was counsel of record. As set out in the original Order and Recommendation of this Hearing Panel those three felony convictions are serious crimes as defined by the Rules of Tennessee Supreme Court and

as such the presumptive sanction for the conviction of such offenses is disbarment as set in original the order to which reference is specifically made.

The Panel considered all of the aggravating and mitigating factors as argued by each party in this cause. At the conclusion of the hearing and after deliberations the Panel concluded that disbarment was the presumptive sanction for the conviction of three serious felony offenses two of which involved subornation of aggravated perjury by an attorney in case where he was the attorney of record. That conclusion has not changed.

The Board of Professional Responsibility in its initial pleadings requested that Mr. Doll's disbarment be made retroactive to the day of Mr. Doll's summary suspension on May 31, 2017. The Panel felt that based upon the written recommendation of the Board, that such an effective date of disbarment might allow Mr. Doll the ability to request reinstatement, as the date was before or prior to the change in the Rules of the Tennessee Supreme Court which now prohibit persons who are disbarred from asking for reinstatement. The Panel considered this matter and felt it was appropriate; if the panel cannot make such a recommendation or such recommendation is not appropriate then the Panel still believes after considering all aggravating and mitigating factors, that disbarment is the appropriate sanction.

The fact that the Panel considered this does not demonstrate any bias for or against Mr. Doll, or any prejudice for or against Mr. Doll. The Hearing Panel did not consider any matter that was not presented or argued at the hearing in this cause. The Panel did not consider any external matter in its deliberations. Therefore, the Panel did not, and does not have any bias towards, for or against, Mr. Doll or prejudice for or against Mr. Doll or the Board.

The Respondent's reliance on the *Beier v. Board of Professional Responsibility*, 610 S.W.3d 425 (Tenn. 2020) is misplaced. In that matter the attorney in question, Douglas Ralph Beier, was not convicted of any criminal case regarding either of the two matters at issue. In the instant case the Respondent was convicted of three serious felony offenses. Two of which involved, the subornation of aggravated perjury, which in the opinion of the Panel go to the very heart of the judicial system and cannot be tolerated.

The decision of the Tennessee Supreme Court in *Meehan v. Board of Professional Responsibility*, 584 S.W.3d 403 (Tenn. 2019) provides further support for the Hearing Panel's decision in this cause. In that case the attorney was convicted of a serious crime for which disbarment was the presumptive sanction. The Tennessee Supreme Court affirmed the Hearing Panel's decision and thereby overturned that of the Circuit Court for Davidson Count which had modified the sanction. The opinion was authored by Justice Lee and sets out the basis for which the sanction of disbarment is appropriate. (i.e. conviction of a serious crime)

The Panel found that disbarment is the presumptive sanction for convictions of multiple serious felony offenses particularly involving subornation of aggravated perjury, and in this case disbarment is appropriate based on all of the factors argued by all parties.

Therefore, the Panel declines to grant Mr. Doll's request for hearing before a different panel and adopts its previous recommendation of disbarment retroactive to the date of Mr. Doll's summary suspension; if the Panel cannot retroactively set the disbarment date to the date of suspension then disbarment as of the date of the hearing is the appropriate sanction.

Respectfu	ally Submitted,
/s/ Stanle	y A. Kweller
Stanley A	. Kweller, Chair
/s/ Dan T	odd
Dan Todo	1
/s/ Jennife	er Sheppard
Jennifer S	Sheppard