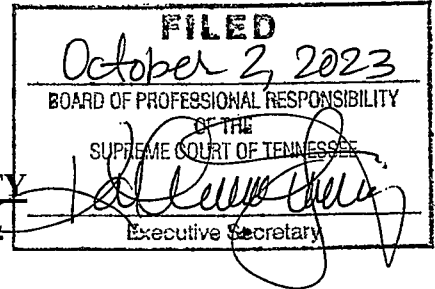


IN DISCIPLINARY DISTRICT IV
OF THE
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE



IN RE: John Philip Parsons, Petitioner
BPR No. 011636 (Putnam County)

Docket No. 2023-3314-4-AW-30.4d

FINDINGS OF FACT AND DECISION

This matter came before the Hearing Panel on Thursday, September 7, 2023. Participating in the hearing were John Philip Parsons, Petitioner; Douglas K. Dennis, counsel for the Petitioner; and A. Russell Willis, Deputy Chief Disciplinary Counsel for the Board of Professional Responsibility (the “Board”).

Statement of the Case

By order of the Tennessee Supreme Court, Petitioner was disbarred from the practice of law retroactive to January 21, 2016. As part of the Court’s October 13, 2017 Order, Petitioner was ordered to make restitution to four individuals, as well as other conditions required by Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9.

Petitioner has filed a Petition for Reinstatement of his law license pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, 30.4(d). Petitioner and the Board entered into certain stipulations in advance of the hearing, which are incorporated into the Findings of Fact.

Findings of Fact

1. Petitioner has satisfied the restitution payments set forth in the Order of Enforcement dated October 13, 2017.

2. Petitioner has paid all fees and costs due and owing to the Board.

3. Petitioner has paid all fees and costs due and owing to the Tennessee Administrative Office of The Courts.

4. Petitioner is in compliance with Tennessee Continuing Legal Education requirements as of the date of this Order.

5. Petitioner is in compliance with the Tennessee Department of Revenue Professional Privilege Taxes requirements as of the date of this Order.

6. The Honorable Wesley T. Bray, Presiding Judge for the Thirteenth Judicial District, testified on behalf of the Petitioner. He has known him since 2002 and believes him to be kind and conscientious. He found him to be prepared and competent in representing his clients. He is generally aware of the reasons for the Petitioner's disbarment and the steps the Petitioner has since taken to make amends. Judge Bray testified that the Petitioner looks healthier now and seems to be in a better financial situation. He does not believe that the Petitioner would be a detriment to the Bar if readmitted.

7. The Honorable Ronald Thurman, Chancellor for the Thirteenth Judicial District, testified on behalf of the Petitioner. He has known the Petitioner for 25-30 years. Before the disbarment he never had an occasion when he questioned the Petitioner's competency to practice law. If the Petitioner is reinstated, he would appoint him immediately to represent clients. While he has not discussed with the Petitioner the facts leading to the disbarment, he has discussed what the Petitioner has done to make up for his mistakes. He testified that the Petitioner's readmittance would not be detrimental to the judicial system because the Petitioner is honest and has paid for his mistakes. He does not question the Petitioner's moral fiber, either before or after the disbarment.

8. Roger Colglazier, CPA, testified on behalf of the Petitioner. Mr. Colgazier is a personal friend and has known the Petitioner since the late 1980s. He has had multiple personal

conversations with the Petitioner about the reasons for the disbarment and speaks with him least once a month. He believes that the Petitioner has recognized and changed from his mistakes. He testified that the Petitioner is morally stable and that he trusts him personally. He testified how the Petitioner's maturity has grown since the mistakes. His understanding is that the Petitioner has paid full restitution to his victims. He believes that the Petitioner's reinstatement would not be detrimental to, but would instead be an asset to, the judicial system.

9. The Petitioner testified on his own behalf. He testified about the factual circumstances leading to his disbarment. He testified about the financial difficulties he was in at the time and his motivation for his actions. He explained, without excusing, his behavior. He acknowledged that he was dealing with depression at the time. He testified how he admitted the mistake, which ultimately led to his disbarment. He was not convicted of a crime, but pled judicial diversion and then met all conditions, leading to an expungement.

10. Petitioner testified about the ways he made amends with the clients involved with the mistakes. He testified about apologizing to them and that he made full restitution.

11. The Petitioner testified about the steps he has taken to rehabilitate himself since this happened. He testified about the effect of medical treatments on his general health and depression. He testified about the people in his life who he has leaned onto in order to develop and maintain a wider support system than he had previously. He testified about the impact on and deeper development of his spiritual life. Among other things, Petitioner writes a blog about his faith that is shared daily with about 300 people. He testified that he did not have any of these self-care systems in place prior to his disbarment.

12. Petitioner gave a background of his legal career. He testified that he has kept up with current Tennessee caselaw and routinely reads the Tennessee Attorney's Memo. He testified in detail about legal issues that he has been following in order to stay current in the law. The CLE

courses he has taken have focused particularly on ethics so that he could avoid making the same mistakes again. He further testified about his plans if his law license is reinstated and the changes he will implement to avoid the circumstances that led to his mistakes. He testified that he plans to handle areas of the law that do not require him to handle clients' money in trust. He has substantial family responsibilities at home, so immediately, he plans to maintain only an office at home. This will also keep his overhead lower to reduce the financial strain of his law practice.

13. Petitioner submitted Exhibits 1 through 8, which included factual detail supporting the stipulations and the history of Petitioner's disbarment proceedings. In addition to letters from each of the witnesses who testified in person, letters in support of Petitioner's reinstatement were reviewed and considered from the Honorable Gary McKenzie, Criminal Court Judge in the Thirteenth Judicial District; Further Holiner, a friend and former client of the Petitioner; Mike Williams, an employer of the Petitioner during the period of disbarment; Ronald Boggs, a former client of the Petitioner's; Jonathan Nelms, Petitioner's pastor; and John M. Sims, Petitioner's friend and personal confidant.

Decision

1. Upon consideration of all the evidence, oral and documentary, the Panel finds it material that Petitioner self-reported his mistakes and took responsibility for his actions. The Panel finds that over the course of this disbarment period, Petitioner has taken numerous and meaningful steps to improve himself, physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and intellectually.

2. Based on the facts and testimony, the Panel concludes that the Petitioner has demonstrated by clear and convincing evidence the following:

a. Petitioner has the moral qualifications, competency, and learning in law required for admission to practice law in the State of Tennessee;

b. The resumption of the practice of law by the Petitioner in the State of Tennessee will not be detrimental to the integrity and standing of the bar or the administration of justice, or subversive to the public interest;

c. Petitioner has satisfied all conditions set forth in the October 13, 2017 Order of discipline, including the payment of costs incurred by the Board in the prosecution of the preceding disciplinary proceedings and any court costs assessed against the Petitioner, including this reinstatement hearing.

3. The Panel finds that the Petitioner has met the standard for Tennessee Rule of Supreme Court 9, Section 30.4(d) for reinstatement as a licensed attorney in the State of Tennessee.

4. However, the Panel believes that it is appropriate to implement a practice monitor as a condition of reinstatement pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 12.9. The practice monitor shall meet with Petitioner at least monthly for a period of one (1) year to review Petitioner's caseload management and trust account procedures.

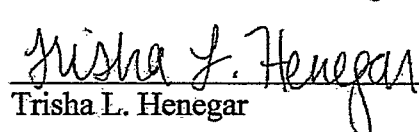
Pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 30.4(d)(3), the Panel finds that the Petitioner shall be, and hereby is, reinstated to the practice of law in the State of Tennessee upon this Order becoming final.

IT IS SO ORDERED ON THE 2nd DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023.

HEARING PANEL

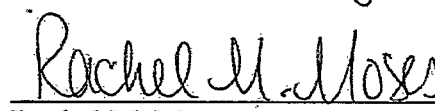


Mary Beth Hagan, Panel Chair



Trisha L. Henegar

w/perm. by
MB Hagan

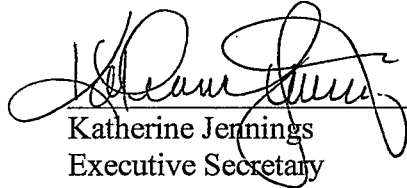


Rachel M. Moses

w/perm by
MB Hagan

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of the foregoing has been sent to John Philip Parsons by email (joppa800@gmail.com), and also to Russell Willis, Disciplinary Counsel (rwillis@tbpr.org), on this the 2nd day of October 2023.


Katherine Jennings
Executive Secretary

NOTICE

This judgment may be appealed by filing a Petition for Review in the appropriate Circuit or Chancery Court in accordance with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 33.