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FILED

ONSLOW COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL COURTS OF JUSTICE

NORTH CAROLINA

2005 DEC -8 AM 11:58

SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

05 CVS 3732

ONCE... C.S.C.

BY _____

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
Petitioner

v.

JOSEPH W. MORTON
RespondentCONSENT ORDER
OF
INTERIM SUSPENSION

THIS MATTER came on to be heard and was heard by the undersigned Senior Resident Judge of the 4th Judicial District on motion of the North Carolina State Bar. Carolin Bakewell and A. Root Edmonson represented petitioner, the North Carolina State Bar. Alan M. Schneider represented the respondent, Joseph W. Morton. Based upon the consent of the parties and the pleadings herein, the Court makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The respondent, Joseph W. Morton, ("Morton"), was licensed to practice law in North Carolina on August 23, 1997.
2. Morton's last known address of record on file with the North Carolina State Bar is PO Box 563, Jacksonville, NC 28541. Morton's home address is 810 Edgewood Drive, Jacksonville, NC 28540.
3. Morton is suffering from serious personal and emotional problems that adversely impact his ability to competently engage in the practice of law.
4. Morton has abandoned his law practice and the Court has previously appointed a trustee/conservator to protect the interests of Morton's clients.
5. Prompt action is necessary to protect the public and the interests of Morton's clients.
6. The parties agree that nothing in this order shall prevent the N.C. State Bar from investigating and prosecuting Morton for violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct, if any.

BASED UPON the foregoing findings, the Court makes the following:

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Prompt action, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. 84-28(f) and the inherent power of this Court over the officers of the Court, is necessary to protect the public until the conclusion of all disciplinary matters against Joseph Morton by the N.C. State Bar.

2. Morton should be suspended from the practice of law on an interim basis until the conclusion of all disciplinary matters pending against Morton before the N.C. State Bar.

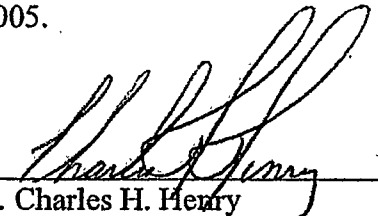
THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Joseph W. Morton is hereby suspended from the practice of law on an interim basis until the conclusion of all disciplinary matters pending against Morton before the N.C. State Bar.


2. This order shall not be construed to impair the N.C. State Bar's ability to investigate and prosecute Morton for violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct, if any.

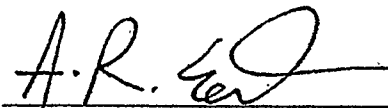
3. This Consent Order of Interim Suspension shall remain in effect until further orders of this Court.


THIS the 7th day of DECEMBER, 2005.


Hon. Charles H. Henry
Senior Superior Court Judge
4th Judicial District

WE CONSENT:


Carolin Bakewell
Attorney for the Petitioner
The North Carolina State Bar


A. Root Edmonson
Attorney for the Petitioner
The North Carolina State Bar


Alan M. Schneider
Attorney for the Respondent