STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY

**BEFORE THE** VANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR FILED DHC NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR \$**92**08, 13G0209, 13G0210, 13G0211, 0212, 13G0496, 13G0618, 13G0619

IN RE:

THOMAS H. CLEMENTS, ATTORNEY

CONSENT ORDER TRANSFERRING MEMBER TO DISABILITY **INACTIVE STATUS** 

This matter is before the undersigned Chair of the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B § .0118(g). Brian P.D. Oten represented the North Carolina State Bar ("State Bar"). Bryce D. Neier represented Thomas H. Clements. Based upon the information presented and with the consent of the member and of the Office of Counsel, the undersigned makes the following

## FINDINGS OF FACT

- The North Carolina State Bar ("State Bar") is a body duly organized under the 1. laws of North Carolina and is the proper party to bring this proceeding under the authority granted it in Chapter 84 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, and the rules and regulations of the North Carolina State Bar promulgated thereunder.
- 2. Thomas H. Clements ("Clements"), was admitted to the North Carolina State Bar on 21 August 1983 and is, and was at all times referred to herein, an attorney at law licensed to practice in North Carolina, subject to the rules, regulations and Rules of Professional Conduct of the North Carolina State Bar and the laws of the State of North Carolina.
- During the times relevant herein, Clements was engaged in the practice of law in the State of North Carolina and maintained a law office in Fayetteville, Cumberland County, North Carolina.
- 4. Clements currently suffers from alcoholism, severe depression, and anxiety which significantly impair his professional performance, judgment, and competence as an attorney.
  - 5. Clements voluntarily consents to being transferred to disability inactive status.
  - 6. The State Bar consents to Clements's transfer to disability inactive status.

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the undersigned makes the following

## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. There is clear, cogent and convincing evidence that Clements is disabled within the meaning of 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B § .0103(19).
  - 2. Clements should be transferred to disability inactive status with the State Bar.
- 3. Clements and the State Bar voluntarily consent to Clements's transfer to disability inactive status pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B § .0118(g).
- 4. The pending grievance against Clements should be stayed during the period of disability.

## THEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED:

- 1. Thomas H. Clements is transferred to disability inactive status.
- 2. Clements shall not practice law in North Carolina until he is no longer disabled and has been returned to active status as a member of the North Carolina State Bar pursuant to the procedures set out in 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B § .0125(c).
- 3. The pending grievances against Clements are hereby stayed during the period of disability until such time as Clements returns to active status. The State Bar may continue to investigate allegations of misconduct and preserve evidence as necessary pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B § .0118(f).

This, the 15th day of JANUARY, 2014.

John M. Silverstein, Chair Grievance Committee

CONSENTED TO:

Thomas H. Clements

Brian P.D. Oten

Deputy Counsel

Bryce D. Xleier

Counsel for Thomas H. Clements

January 7,2014