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2019 FEB 11 PM 4:11  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA      IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE  
WAKE COUNTY      SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION  
19 CVS 1397

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR,  
Petitioner

v.

DARIN P. MEECE, Attorney,  
Respondent



ORDER OF DISBARMENT

THIS MATTER came before the undersigned Judge of the Superior Court of Wake County upon the tender of surrender of the law license of Darin P. Meece. Petitioner, the North Carolina State Bar, was represented by Maria J. Brown. Respondent, Darin P. Meece, appeared *pro se*.

Based upon the Affidavit of Surrender of Law License submitted to the Court by Darin P. Meece and the consent of the parties, the court makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Meece was licensed to practice law on 18 August 1995.
2. During all periods relevant hereto, Meece was actively engaged in the practice of law in Durham County, North Carolina.
3. Meece misappropriated \$15,000.00 of fiduciary funds by causing a check to be issued from his law firm trust account to a business entity he controlled at a time when he was neither authorized to remove the funds nor entitled to any portion of them.

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Court makes the following:

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. This court has jurisdiction over Meece and over the subject matter of this proceeding.
2. The courts of this State have the inherent authority to take disciplinary action against attorneys licensed to practice law in North Carolina.
3. By misappropriating fiduciary funds, Meece used entrusted property for the benefit of one other than the legal or beneficial owner in violation of Rule of Professional Conduct 1.15-2(k); engaged in a criminal act that reflects adversely on his honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer in violation of Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4(b); and engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation in violation of Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4(c).

4. Meece's misconduct constitutes grounds for discipline pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 84-28(b)(2).

5. Meece has engaged in professional misconduct warranting disbarment.

IT IS NOW, THEREFORE, ORDERED:

1. The surrender of the license of Darin P. Meece is hereby accepted.

2. Darin P. Meece is DISBARRED from the practice of law in North Carolina effective upon entry of this Order.

3. Meece shall comply with the provisions of 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B.0128 and shall surrender his law license and permanent membership card to the Secretary of the North Carolina State Bar along with the affidavit required by Rule .0128.

4. Within 15 days of the effective date of this Order, Meece shall provide the State Bar with an address and telephone number at which clients seeking return of files can communicate with Meece and obtain such files.

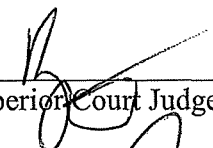
5. Meece shall promptly return client files in his possession, custody, or control to clients upon request, within five days of receipt of such request. Meece will be deemed to have received any such request three days after the date the request is sent to him if the request is sent to the address Meece provided to the State Bar pursuant to this Order.

6. Meece shall not petition for reinstatement of his law license until the expiration of at least five years from the date of entry of this order.


7. Meece's law license shall not be reinstated until he has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission and the Council of the North Carolina State Bar that he has complied with 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B.0128 and .0129(a).

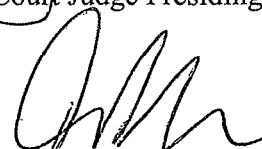
8. The costs of this action are taxed against Darin P. Meece.

Done and Ordered this 11<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Superior Court Judge Presiding

Consented to:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Maria J. Brown, Deputy Counsel  
Attorney for Petitioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Darin P. Meece  
Respondent

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AFFIDAVIT OF  
SURRENDER OF LAW LICENSE

Darin P. Meece, being first duly sworn, deposes and says as follows:

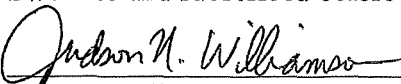
1. I desire to surrender and hereby tender my license to practice law in North Carolina.
2. My surrender is freely and voluntarily rendered. It is not the result of coercion or duress. I am fully aware of the implication of submitting my surrender.
3. I am aware that there is a pending investigation by the State Bar regarding allegations that I misappropriated \$15,000.00 of fiduciary funds by causing a check to be issued from my law firm trust account to a business entity I control at a time when I was neither authorized to remove the funds nor entitled to any portion of them.
4. I acknowledge that the material facts upon which the investigation is predicated are true.
5. I am submitting my resignation because I know that if disciplinary charges were predicated upon the misconduct under investigation, I could not successfully defend against them.

This the 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019.

  
Darin P. Meece

I, Judson N. Williamson, Notary Public of the County of Orange, State of North Carolina, certify that Darin P. Meece personally appeared before me this day, was sworn, attested that the foregoing Affidavit is true and accurate of his own personal knowledge, and executed the foregoing Affidavit.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019.

  
Notary Public  
My Commission Expires: 2/11/24



### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Order of Disbarment was served upon the Respondent by depositing a copy thereof in the United States first class mail, postage prepaid addressed as follows:

Darin P. Meece  
2235 Umstead Road  
Durham, NC 27712

This the 11<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019.



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Maria J. Brown  
Deputy Counsel  
The North Carolina State Bar