

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY



BEFORE THE  
DISCIPLINARY HEARING COMMISSION  
OF THE  
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR  
17 DHC 4

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR,  
Plaintiff

v.

JEANNE P. HALL, Attorney,  
Defendant

**CONSENT ORDER  
TRANSFERRING MEMBER TO  
DISABILITY INACTIVE STATUS AND  
STAYING DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDING**

This matter was considered by a hearing panel of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission composed of Fred M. Morelock, Chair, Richard V. Bennett, and Cindy L. Marrelli. Brian P.D. Oten represented the North Carolina State Bar. Jeanne P. Hall represented herself. Both parties stipulate and agree to the findings of fact and conclusions of law recited in this consent order and to the transfer of Defendant to disability inactive status. Defendant freely and voluntarily waives any right to appeal the entry of this consent order transferring her to disability inactive status.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. The North Carolina State Bar is a body duly organized under the 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. Jeanne P. Hall was admitted to the North Carolina State Bar on 31 July 1986 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.

3. Prior to 14 January 2014, Hall was engaged in the practice of law in the State of North Carolina and maintained a law office in Brevard, Transylvania County, North Carolina. On 14 January 2014, Hall transferred to inactive membership status with the State Bar.

4. The Complaint in this action was filed on 24 January 2017.

5. Hall accepted service of the Summons and Complaint on 6 February 2017 and filed her Answer on 3 March 2017.

6. On or about 7 April 2017, Linda Melrose, PhD, of Brevard, N.C. submitted a letter to the State Bar concerning Hall's chronic mental and physical health issues. Dr. Melrose's letter stated:

- a. Hall was diagnosed with and began treatment for post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in 2007;

- b. Hall's PTSD was the result of a series of traumatic events and assaults related to experiences in her legal practice;
  - c. Hall's disorder causes Hall to experience significant stress and anxiety with regards to her legal practice;
  - d. Hall has other physical medical conditions that, when paired with the psychological disorder, significantly impact her ability to practice law;
  - e. Hall transferred to inactive status with the State Bar in 2014 because of her PTSD and her physical medical conditions; and
  - f. Due to the impact of Hall's stress and anxiety on her ability to practice law, Dr. Melrose does not recommend that Hall return to legal practice.
7. Hall requests and consents to being transferred to disability inactive status.
8. The State Bar consents to Hall's transfer to disability inactive status.

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Hearing Panel makes the following

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. All parties are properly before the DHC and the DHC has jurisdiction over Defendant and over the subject matter of this proceeding.
2. Hall's mental and physical conditions significantly impair her performance as an attorney.
3. Hall is disabled within the meaning of 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B § .0103(19) and should be transferred to disability inactive status pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B § .0118 and N.C. Gen. Stat. § 84-28(g).
4. Any proceeding pending before the Grievance Committee or before the DHC, including this matter, should be stayed as long as Hall remains in disability inactive status pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B § .0118(e). If Hall is returned to active status by the DHC, this disciplinary proceeding will be rescheduled by the Chair of the DHC.

#### ORDER

1. Jeanne P. Hall is hereby transferred to disability inactive status in accordance with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 84-28(g) and 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B § .0118(d)(5).
2. Hall shall not practice law in North Carolina until she 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).

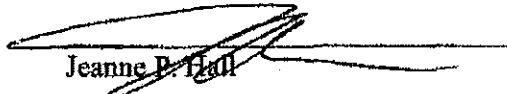
3. All proceedings pending before the Disciplinary Hearing Commission against Hall are stayed until such time as Hall is reinstated to active status.

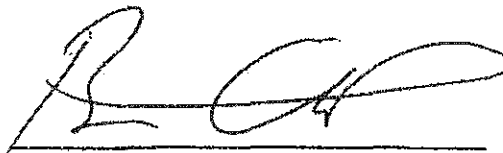
4. This order shall be effective immediately upon entry pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B § .0118(d)(5)(A).

Signed by the Chair with the consent of the other Hearing Panel members, this the 25<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2017.

  
Fred M. Morelock, Chair  
Disciplinary Hearing Panel

CONSENTED TO:

  
Jeanne P. Hall

  
Brian P.D. Oten  
Deputy Counsel  
North Carolina State Bar