

FILED

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA	IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
2017 AUG -2 PM 1: 55	SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
CHEROKEE COUNTY	CHEROKEE CO., C.S.C. 15 SP 155
BY	
IN RE: ERIC WINSTON STILES, Attorney at Law	CONSENT ORDER OF DISBARMENT

THIS MATTER came before the undersigned Senior Resident Superior Court Judge of the 30A Judicial District. Eric Winston Stiles was represented by Sean P. Devereux. Brian P.D. Otten appeared on behalf of the North Carolina State Bar.

Based upon the Affidavit of Surrender of Law License submitted to the Court by Eric Winston Stiles, the Court makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Eric Winston Stiles ("Stiles") was licensed to practice law in North Carolina on September 7, 2005.
2. Stiles operated a law office in Swain County, North Carolina.
3. During 2015, Stiles neglected a number of client matters, including failing to appear or timely appear for scheduled court hearings. Stiles also failed to respond to his clients' reasonable inquiries regarding the status of their cases. Stiles's conduct caused significant harm or potential significant harm to his clients and generated numerous complaints from the courts and his clients to the State Bar. Stiles's conduct was influenced, at least in part, by his unlawful possession and unlawful use of controlled substances during this time period.
4. On 7 February 2017, Stiles entered a plea of guilty to one felony count of Knowingly Possessing One or More Firearms While Being an Unlawful User of a Controlled Substance in the United States District Court, Western District of North Carolina (case no. 1:16 CR 106).
5. Stiles is in fact guilty of the criminal offense to which he pled guilty.
6. Stiles desires to resign his license to practice law and has tendered his license to practice law in North Carolina.

7. Stiles's resignation is freely and voluntarily rendered. It is not the result of coercion or duress. Stiles is fully aware of the implication of submitting his resignation.

8. Stiles has submitted his resignation because he knows that if disciplinary charges were predicated upon the misconduct described above, he could not successfully defend against them.

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

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. By committing the acts described in his Affidavit of Surrender of Law License and by being convicted of one felony count of Knowingly Possessing One or More Firearms While Being an Unlawful User of a Controlled Substance in the United States District Court, Western District of North Carolina, Stiles violated Rules 1.3, 1.4(a)(3) & (4), 3.3(a)(1), 3.5(a)(4), 8.4(b), and 8.4(c) of the North Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct.

2. Stiles's misconduct constitutes grounds for discipline pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 84-28(b)(1) and (2).

3. The courts of this State have inherent authority to take disciplinary action against attorneys licensed to practice law in North Carolina.

4. This Court has jurisdiction over Stiles and over the subject matter of this proceeding.

5. Stiles has engaged in professional misconduct warranting disbarment.

IT IS NOW, THEREFORE, ORDERED:

a) Eric Winston Stiles is DISBARRED from the practice of law in North Carolina.

b) This Order of Disbarment is effective immediately upon entry.

c) To the extent not already completed, Eric Winston Stiles shall comply with the provisions of Subchapter B, Section .0124 of the Rules and Regulations of the North Carolina State Bar and shall surrender his license and permanent membership card to the Secretary of the North Carolina State Bar along with the affidavit required by Subchapter B, Section .0124.

d) This Order of Disbarment resolves the indefinite suspension imposed by this Court by order dated 22 December 2015. If Stiles petitions for reinstatement to the practice of law in North Carolina, such petition shall be brought pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code, Chapter 1, Subchapter B, Section .0125 of the Rules and Regulations of the North Carolina State Bar.


e) Stiles 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.

f) Stiles'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, Chapter 1, Subchapter B, Section .0125 of the Rules and Regulations of the North Carolina State Bar.

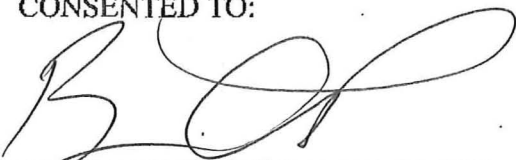
g)The costs of this action are taxed against Stiles.

Done and Ordered this 26th day of July, 2017.



William H. Coward
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge
30A Judicial District

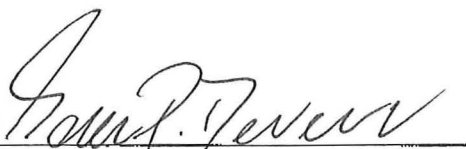
CONSENTED TO:



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



Eric Winston Stiles



Sean P. Devereux
Attorney for Eric Winston Stiles

<p style="text-align: center;">FILED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2017 AUG -2 PM 1:58</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION</p>	
<p>STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA</p>		<p>15 SP 155</p>	
<p>CHEROKEE COUNTY</p>		<p>CHEROKEE CO., C.S.C.</p>	
<p>IN RE: ERIC WINSTON STILES, Attorney at Law</p>		<p>AFFIDAVIT OF SURRENDER OF LAW LICENSE</p>	

Eric Winston Stiles, being first duly sworn, deposes and says as follows:

1. I desire to resign and hereby tender my license to practice law in North Carolina.
2. My resignation is freely and voluntarily rendered. It is not the result of coercion or duress. I am fully aware of the implication of submitting my resignation.
3. In 2015, I neglected a number of client matters, including failing to appear or timely appear for scheduled court hearings. I also failed to respond to my clients' reasonable inquiries regarding the status of their cases. My conduct caused significant harm or potential significant harm to my clients and generated numerous complaints from the courts and my clients to the State Bar. My conduct was influenced, at least in part, by my unlawful possession and unlawful use of controlled substances during this time period.
4. On 7 February 2017, I entered a plea of guilty to one felony count of Knowingly Possessing One or More Firearms While Being an Unlawful User of a Controlled Substance in the United States District Court, Western District of North Carolina (case no. 1:16 CR 106). This charge stemmed from my conduct in May 2016 when I was arrested and found to be in possession of a firearm while being an unlawful user of methamphetamine. I am in fact guilty of this charge.
5. I am aware that there is presently pending an investigation with the North Carolina State Bar regarding my conduct as described above.
6. I acknowledge that the material facts upon which the investigation is predicated are true.
7. 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 25th day of July, 2017.

5/10/20

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this the 25th day of July, 2017.

My Commission Expires:

