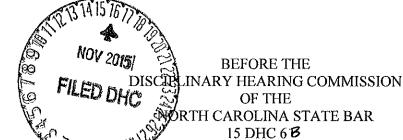
WAKE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA



THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR,

Petitioner

v.

CONSENT ORDER OF DISBARMENT

JIMMY A. PETTUS, Attorney,

Defendant

THIS MATTER came on to be heard and was heard by the undersigned Chairperson of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission ("DHC") pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code Chapter 1, Subchapter B, Section .0117(d) of the North Carolina State Bar Discipline & Disability Rules. Petitioner, the North Carolina State Bar, was represented by Barry S. McNeill. The Defendant, Jimmy A. Pettus ("Pettus" or "Defendant"), appeared *pro se*.

Based upon the Affidavit of Surrender of Law License submitted to the DHC Chairperson by Pettus and the consent of the parties, the undersigned makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Pettus was licensed to practice law on August 23, 1997.
- 2. During all periods relevant hereto, Pettus was engaged in the practice of law in the State of North Carolina and practiced in the law firm of H. Russell Vick & Associates, P.L.L.C. ("Vick & Associates") in Greensboro, Guilford County, North Carolina.
- 3. Between November 2010 and December 2011, Pettus misappropriated entrusted federal and state tax withholdings and employees' Simple IRA contributions ("entrusted funds") for his own benefit or for the benefit of Vick & Associates.
- 4. Pettus's Affidavit of Surrender of Law License meets the requirements of 27 N.C. Admin. Code Chapter 1, Subchapter B, Section .0117(a)(1), (2), (3), and (4).

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The DHC has jurisdiction over Pettus and over the subject matter of this proceeding.

- 2. By misappropriating entrusted funds, Pettus committed criminal acts that reflect adversely on his honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects in violation of Rule 8.4(b), and engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation in violation of Rule 8.4(c).
- 3. Pettus's misconduct constitutes grounds for discipline pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 84-28(b)(2).
 - 4. Pettus engaged in professional misconduct warranting disbarment.

ORDER

- 1. The surrender of the license of Jimmy A. Pettus is hereby accepted.
- 2. Jimmy A. Pettus is DISBARRED from the practice of law in North Carolina effective upon entry of this Order.
- Pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code Chapter 1, Subchapter B, Section .0117(d), this Order of disbarment becomes effective upon the entry of the Order with the Secretary of the North Carolina State Bar.
- Pettus 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.
- 5. Pettus's law license shall not be reinstated until he has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the DHC and the Council of the North Carolina State Bar that he has complied with 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B § .0125(a).

6. The costs of this action and administrative fees assessed by the State Bar are taxed against Pettus. day of November, 2015.

Done and Ordered this

Steven D. Michael, Chairperson Disciplinary Hearing Commission

Signed and consented to:

Petitioner, North Carolina State Bar

WAKE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA

BEFORE THE

BEFORE THE

BEFORE THE

OF THE

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR

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THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BARRELL

Petitioner

v.

AFFIDAVIT OF SURRENDER OF LAW LICENSE

JIMMY A. PETTUS, Attorney,

Respondent

Jimmy A. Pettus, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

- 1. I desire to resign and hereby tender my license to practice law in North Carolina pursuant to the provisions of 27 N.C. Admin. Code Chapter 1, Subchapter B, Section .0117(d) of the North Carolina State Bar Discipline & Disability Rules.
- 2. My resignation is freely and voluntarily rendered, and is not the result of coercion or duress. I am fully aware of the implications of submitting my resignation. I affirm that I have had the opportunity to consult an attorney before filing this Affidavit.
- 3. I am aware that there is a pending investigation against me by the State Bar regarding the allegations that between November 2010 and December 2011, I misappropriated entrusted federal and state tax withholdings and employees' Simple IRA contributions for my own benefit or for the benefit of my law firm.
- 4. I acknowledge that the material facts upon which the State Bar's 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 10 day of November, 2015.

Jimmy A. Pettus

I, D. BRYAN AUSTIN	, Notary Public of the County of _ Coursely
State of North Carolina, certify that Jimmy A. Pettus personally appeared before me this	
day, was sworn, and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing Affidavit.	

Sworn to and subscribed before me

This the 10 day of NOVEMBER, 2015.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 10/24/2019

OFFICIAL SEAL
Notary Public, North Carolina
COUNTY OF GUILFORD
D. BRYAN AUSTIN
My Commission Expires LOCALING