STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA FILED DIAS

BEFORE THE INARY HEARING COMMISSION OF THE ORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR

ORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR 16 DHC ||

In re: JOSEPH LEE LEVINSON,

Attorney at Law

CONSENT ORDER OF INTERIM SUSPENSION

This cause came before the undersigned Chair of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code Chapter 1, Subchapter B, Rule .0115(d) of the Discipline & Disability Rules of the North Carolina State Bar on petition for an order of interim suspension of Joseph Lee Levinson's license to practice law in North Carolina based upon his guilty plea to crimes showing professional unfitness in the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina. Based upon the petition and the certified copy of the guilty plea, the undersigned hereby makes the following

## FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Joseph Lee Levinson was licensed to practice law in North Carolina on 30 January 2004 and is, and was at all times referred to herein, an attorney at law subject to the rules, regulations, and Rules of Professional Conduct of the North Carolina State Bar and the laws of North Carolina.
- 2. The current address of record for Levinson with the North Carolina State Bar is P.O. Box 117, Benson, North Carolina, 27504.
- 3. Levinson was charged with two felony counts in *United States v. Joseph Lee Levinson*, M.D.N.C. case #1:15-CR-413-1.
- 4. On 8 January 2016, Levinson pled guilty to Object A of Count 1 of the indictment: the felony offense of conspiracy to obtain money in the custody of a bank by false pretenses.
- 5. The North Carolina State Bar intends to file a formal complaint against Levinson alleging he has violated the Rules of Professional Conduct based upon his felony convictions.

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

## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The felony offenses for which Joseph Lee Levinson pled guilty is a serious crime showing professional unfitness to practice law as defined by Rule .0103(17) of the State Bar Discipline & Disability Rules and N.C. Gen. Stat. § 84-28(b).

2. The undersigned is authorized, pursuant to Rule .0115(d) of the State Bar Discipline & Disability Rules, to enter an order suspending an attorney's license upon receipt of a certified copy of a plea of guilty to a criminal offense showing professional unfitness to practice law.

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is hereby ORDERED:

- 1. Joseph Lee Levinson's license to practice law in North Carolina is hereby SUSPENDED until the conclusion of all disciplinary matters arising out of and related to the above-referenced guilty plea in the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina. Pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B §§ .0115(d) and .0124(c), this Order shall be effective 30 days from the date of service of this Order upon Levinson.
- 2. Levinson shall comply with the wind down provisions contained in Rule .0124 of the North Carolina State Bar Discipline and Disability Rules, 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B § .0124.

This the 27 day of January, 2016.

even Michael, Chair

Disciplinary Hearing Commission

CONSENTED TO BY:

Brian Oten Deputy Counsel

The North Carolina State Bar

Attorney for Plaintiff

Joseph Lee Levinson

Defendant

Douglas J. Brocker

Attorney for Defendant

Wes J. Camden

Attorney for Defendant