

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINE OF
DOUGLAS C. CRAWFORD, ESQ.

No. 49333

FILED

MAY 01 2007

ORDER OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

JANETTE M. BLOOM
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY: *J. Castillo*
DEPUTY CLERK

This is a petition by the Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board Chair for an order temporarily suspending attorney Douglas C. Crawford from the practice of law, pending the resolution of formal disciplinary proceedings against him.¹ The petition and supporting documentation demonstrate that Crawford appears to have misappropriated over \$100,000 in client funds and has commingled personal funds with client and lienholder funds, and his trust account is accordingly out of balance. Additionally, he has attempted to prevent clients from complaining to the state bar, and has failed to respond to bar counsel's repeated inquiries.

SCR 102(4)(a) provides, in pertinent part:

On the petition of a disciplinary board, signed by its chair or vice chair, supported by an affidavit alleging facts personally known to the affiant,

¹This matter was originally docketed as confidential because a formal disciplinary complaint had not yet been filed. See SCR 121(5). Since we are granting the petition, this matter is now open to the public. See id.

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07-09714

which shows that an attorney appears to be posing a substantial threat of serious harm to the public, the supreme court may order, with notice as the court may prescribe, the attorney's immediate temporary suspension or may impose other conditions upon the attorney's practice. . . .

In addition, SCR 102(4)(b) provides that this court may place restrictions on an attorney's handling of funds.

We conclude that the documentation before us demonstrates that Crawford poses a substantial threat of serious harm to the public, and that his immediate temporary suspension is warranted.² We further conclude that Crawford's handling of funds should be restricted.³

Accordingly, Crawford is temporarily suspended from the practice of law, pending the resolution of formal disciplinary proceedings against him.⁴ In addition, Crawford shall be prohibited from withdrawing any funds from his client trust account, or from any other account containing funds belonging to third parties, except upon written approval of bar counsel or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction.⁵ The state

²See SCR 102(4)(a).


³See SCR 102(4)(b).


⁴Under SCR 102(4)(c), Crawford is immediately prohibited from accepting new clients. He may continue to represent existing clients for fifteen days. Id. Any fees or other funds received from or on behalf of clients during this fifteen-day period shall be deposited in a trust account, from which no withdrawals may be made except upon written approval of bar counsel or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction. Id.

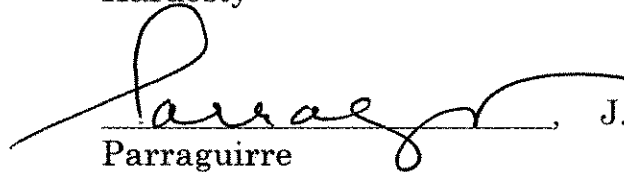
⁵See SCR 102(4)(b).

bar shall immediately serve Crawford with a copy of this order.⁶ Such service may be accomplished by personal service, certified mail, delivery to a person of suitable age at Crawford's law office or residence, or by publication. When served on either Crawford or a depository in which he maintains an account, this order shall constitute an injunction against withdrawal of the proceeds except in accordance with the terms of this order.⁷

It is so ORDERED.⁸


Gibbons J.


Hardesty J.


Parraguirre J.

⁶Under SCR 102(4)(d), Crawford may request dissolution or amendment of this temporary suspension order by filing a petition with this court, which may be set for immediate hearing before a hearing panel.

⁷See SCR 102(4)(b).

⁸Crawford shall comply with SCR 115.

This is our final disposition of this matter. Any new proceedings concerning Crawford shall be docketed under a new docket number.

cc: Howard Miller, Chair, Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board
David Clark, Acting Bar Counsel
Kimberly K. Farmer, Executive Director
Law Offices of Douglas C. Crawford
Perry Thompson, Admissions Office,
Supreme Court of the United States