

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN RE: DISCIPLINE OF ROBERT J.
HANDFUSS.

No. 45121

FILED

JUN 06 2005

JANETTE M. BLOOM
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
DEPUTY CLERK

ORDER IMPOSING RECIPROCAL DISCIPLINE

This is a petition for reciprocal discipline under SCR 114 against attorney Robert J. Handfuss, based on discipline imposed upon him in New Jersey. Handfuss did not respond to the petition in any way.¹

On January 27, 2005, the New Jersey Supreme Court suspended Handfuss for one year based on his failure for two years to return funds owed to a client, in light of aggravating circumstances including prior discipline and failure to respond to the New Jersey discipline authorities. No mitigating circumstances were identified by the New Jersey court. Handfuss's conduct violated the New Jersey equivalents of SCR 165 (safekeeping property) and SCR 200(2) (failure to respond to disciplinary authority).

Handfuss failed to notify the Nevada State Bar of the New Jersey discipline as required by SCR 114(1). The state bar learned of the

¹Under SCR 79, Nevada attorneys have a duty to maintain a current address with the State Bar of Nevada. SCR 114 requires the state bar to mail a petition for reciprocal discipline to the attorney's address provided under SCR 79 and to provide proof to this court that the petition has been served. The state bar fulfilled its duties in this case. The rules require nothing further.

Effective Date: June 2005*

Bar Number: 1874

*immediately as to new clients, 15 days to wind down existing cases

New Jersey discipline through the New Jersey bar, and this petition followed. Handfuss did not respond to the petition.

SCR 114(4) provides that this court shall impose identical reciprocal discipline unless the attorney demonstrates or this court finds that one of three exceptions applies. None of the exceptions applies to this case, and so we grant the petition for reciprocal discipline.

Accordingly, Handfuss is suspended for one year.² Handfuss and the state bar shall comply with the requirements of SCR 115 and SCR 121.1.

It is so ORDERED.³

Becker, C. J.
Becker

Rose, J.
Rose

Gibbons, J.
Gibbons

Hardesty, J.
Hardesty

Maupin, J.
Maupin

Douglas, J.
Douglas

Parraguirre, J.
Parraguirre

²We note that under SCR 116(1), Handfuss must petition for reinstatement before he may again practice law in Nevada.

³This is our final order in this matter. Any additional proceeding concerning Handfuss shall be docketed under a new docket number.

cc: Rob W. Bare, Bar Counsel
Allen W. Kimbrough, Executive Director
Robert J. Handfuss
Perry Thompson, Admissions Office,
Supreme Court of the United States