

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN RE: DISCIPLINE OF RICHARD
SALAS, BAR NO. 6480.

No. 58280

FILED

OCT 23 2012

TRACIE K. ANDERSON
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY *[Signature]*
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

This is an automatic appeal from a decision of a hearing panel of the Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board recommending that attorney Richard Salas be suspended from the practice of law in Nevada, subject to conditions. See SCR 105(3)(b).

On July 26, 2010, this court entered an order temporarily suspending Salas from the practice of law pursuant to SCR 111. In re Discipline of Salas, Docket No. 56167 (Order of Temporary Suspension and Referral to Disciplinary Board, July 26, 2010). We concluded that documents tendered by bar counsel conclusively demonstrated that Salas had been convicted in California, pursuant to a plea of nolo contendere, to one count of perjury under oath, a felony under California Penal Code § 118(a); and one count of workers' compensation insurance fraud, a felony under California Insurance Code § 1874.4(a)(1), both "serious crimes" warranting a temporary suspension under SCR 111. Accordingly, we temporarily suspended Salas from the practice of law and referred this matter to the Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board for the initiation of formal disciplinary proceedings in which the sole issue to be determined was the extent of discipline to be imposed. See SCR 111(7), (8).

Effective Date: 10/23/2012
*Suspension is retroactive to 7/26/2010.
Bar No. 6480

12-33527

In the criminal case, Salas was sentenced to 120 days in Los Angeles County Jail. Salas was also placed on probation for a period of five years, and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$100,000 to the victim insurance company, of which \$25,000 had been remitted at the time of sentencing.

Subsequently, bar counsel filed a formal complaint charging Salas with violating RPC 8.4(b) (misconduct: commit a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer) and RPC 8.4(c) (misconduct: engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation). Salas filed an answer in which he admitted all of the allegations in the complaint.

A disciplinary hearing was held, at which Salas testified. The panel submitted a recommendation that Salas be suspended from the practice of law for a period of three years, retroactive to July 26, 2010, the date that Salas's temporary suspension commenced. The panel further recommended that Salas be required to fulfill all of the conditions of his California probation before being allowed to petition for reinstatement; that he obtain ten continuing legal education credit hours in ethics prior to reinstatement; that if reinstated, he be required to participate in a mentorship program approved by bar counsel for one year after reinstatement; and that Salas be required to pay the costs of the disciplinary proceedings. Neither Salas nor the State Bar contest the panel's recommendation.

Having reviewed the record of the proceedings, we approve the findings and recommendation of the disciplinary panel. Accordingly, Salas is suspended from the practice of law for three years from July 26, 2010, the effective date of his temporary suspension. Prior to petitioning for

reinstatement pursuant to SCR 116, Salas shall provide the State Bar with proof that he has fulfilled all of the requirements of his California probation and that he has obtained ten continuing legal education hours in ethics. If reinstated, Salas is required to participate in a mentorship program, approved by bar counsel, for one year after reinstatement. Salas also shall pay the costs of the disciplinary proceeding, pursuant to SCR 120, within 30 days of receipt of the State Bar's bill of costs. Finally, Salas and the State Bar must comply with the applicable provisions of SCR 115 and 121.1.

It is so ORDERED.¹

Cherry, C.J.
Cherry

Douglas, J.
Douglas

Saitta, J.
Saitta

Gibbons, J.
Gibbons

Pickering, J.
Pickering

Hardesty, J.
Hardesty

Parraguirre, J.
Parraguirre

¹This order constitutes our final disposition of this matter. Any future proceedings concerning Salas shall be docketed as a new matter.

cc: Jeffrey R. Albregts, Chair, Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board
David Clark, Bar Counsel
Kimberly K. Farmer, Executive Director, State Bar of Nevada
Richard James Salas
Perry Thompson, Admissions Office, United States Supreme Court