

SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

In re Burchinal

2020 Ohio 791 (Ohio 2020) · No. 2020-0307 · Decided March 5, 2020

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of Ohio imposed an interim suspension from the practice of law on Christopher James Burchinal after receiving a certified judgment entry of his felony conviction. The court referred the matter for disciplinary investigation and imposed related restrictions, continuing legal education requirements, client-notification duties, and reinstatement conditions.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Ohio
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Maureen O'Connor, Chief Justice; Maureen O'Connor; Maureen E. Kennedy; Judith L. French; William M. Fischer; Pat DeWine; Michael P. Donnelly; Melody J. Stewart
JURISDICTION	Ohio
DECIDED	March 5, 2020
DOCKET	2020-0307
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The director of the Ohio Board of Professional Conduct filed a certified copy of respondent's felony-conviction judgment entry with the Supreme Court of Ohio under Gov.Bar R. V(18).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published per curiam disciplinary order with limited precedential value beyond application of the governing bar rules to the certified felony conviction.

TOPICS

administrative law

agency adjudication

PRACTICE AREAS

legal ethics

attorney discipline

professional responsibility

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Supreme Court of Ohio should impose an interim suspension upon receipt of a certified entry of an attorney's felony conviction pursuant to Gov.Bar R. V(18).

HOLDINGS

1. Upon consideration of the certified judgment entry of Burchinal's felony conviction, the Supreme Court of Ohio suspended him from the practice of law for an interim period effective immediately and referred the matter to disciplinary counsel for investigation and commencement of disciplinary proceedings.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“respondent, Christopher James Burchinal, Attorney Registration No. 0071503, last known business address in Delaware, Ohio, is suspended from the practice of law for an interim period, effective as of the date of this entry.” (¶ 2)

“It is further ordered that this matter is referred to disciplinary counsel for investigation and the commencement of disciplinary proceedings.” (¶ 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Christopher James Burchinal was an attorney licensed to practice law in Ohio. The director of the Board of Professional Conduct filed with the Supreme Court a certified copy of a judgment entry reflecting Burchinal's felony conviction.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On March 2, 2020, the director of the Board of Professional Conduct filed the certified felony-conviction judgment entry. The Supreme Court of Ohio entered an interim suspension effective immediately and referred the matter to disciplinary counsel for investigation and commencement of disciplinary proceedings.

DISPOSITION

other