

SUPREME COURT OF WISCONSIN

Office of Lawyer Regulation v. Christopher Stephen Petros

351 Wis. 2d 775 (2014) · No. 2013AP2089-D · Decided January 3, 2014

SUMMARY

The Wisconsin Supreme Court reviewed a stipulation between the Office of Lawyer Regulation and Christopher Stephen Petros concerning reciprocal discipline based on a 90-day suspension imposed by the Minnesota Supreme Court. The court accepted the stipulation and suspended Petros's Wisconsin law license for 90 days, effective February 3, 2014, without assessing costs.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Wisconsin
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Per curiam
JURISDICTION	Wisconsin
DECIDED	January 3, 2014
DOCKET	2013AP2089-D
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The Wisconsin Supreme Court reviewed a stipulation under SCR 22.12 in which the Office of Lawyer Regulation and Attorney Christopher Stephen Petros jointly requested reciprocal discipline identical to discipline imposed by the Minnesota Supreme Court.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Independent review of the stipulation and the proposed discipline.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published state supreme court opinion
PARTIES	Office of Lawyer Regulation v. Christopher Stephen Petros

TOPICS

appellate procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

legal ethics

attorney discipline

professional responsibility

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Wisconsin Supreme Court should accept the parties' stipulation under SCR 22.12.

2. Whether reciprocal discipline identical to the 90-day Minnesota suspension should be imposed under SCR 22.22.

HOLDINGS

1. The court accepted the stipulation under SCR 22.12 after independently reviewing the matter.
2. The court imposed a 90-day suspension of Petros's Wisconsin law license as reciprocal discipline identical to the suspension imposed by the Minnesota Supreme Court.
3. No costs were assessed because the matter was resolved by stipulation and no referee was appointed.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Based upon our independent review of the matter, we conclude that the SCR 22.12 stipulation should be accepted and that Attorney Petros's license to practice law in Wisconsin should be suspended for 90 days as reciprocal discipline identical to that imposed by the Minnesota Supreme Court.” (¶ 6)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Attorney Christopher Stephen Petros was admitted to practice law in Wisconsin in 2009. The Minnesota Supreme Court suspended his Minnesota license for 90 days after finding that he submitted false evidence, made false statements to disciplinary authorities, failed to notify a client of a hearing, caused and failed to correct misrepresentations to a court, failed to notify clients of appeal rights, and failed to diligently pursue a client's case, communicate with the client, and timely return client property. Petros and the Office of Lawyer Regulation stipulated to reciprocal 90-day suspension in Wisconsin.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Minnesota Supreme Court suspended Petros's Minnesota law license for 90 days based on multiple instances of professional misconduct. The Wisconsin Office of Lawyer Regulation then filed a complaint seeking reciprocal discipline under SCR 22.22. Petros stipulated to the facts, misconduct, and requested discipline, and the Wisconsin Supreme Court accepted the stipulation without appointing a referee.

DISPOSITION

other