

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS

In re Jon W. Norris

In re Jon W. Norris · No. 22-BS-774 · Decided October 20, 2022

SUMMARY

The District of Columbia Court of Appeals indefinitely suspended Jon W. Norris from practicing law based on disability under D.C. Bar Rule XI, § 13(c). The court appointed Barry Coburn as conservator to inventory and appropriately distribute Norris’s client files and ordered Norris to comply with suspended-attorney requirements.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	District of Columbia Court of Appeals
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Glickman, Associate Judge; McLeese, Associate Judge; Thompson, Senior Judge
JURISDICTION	District of Columbia
DECIDED	October 20, 2022
DOCKET	22-BS-774
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Disciplinary Counsel filed an unopposed petition on behalf of the Board on Professional Responsibility seeking respondent’s suspension based on disability under D.C. Bar Rule XI, § 13(c).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published per curiam disciplinary order; no reporter citation appears in the source.

TOPICS

[administrative law](#) [agency adjudication](#) [ada / disability](#)

PRACTICE AREAS

[attorney discipline](#) [disability-based suspension](#) [legal ethics](#)

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether respondent should be suspended indefinitely from the practice of law based on disability under D.C. Bar Rule XI, § 13(c).

2. Whether a conservator should be appointed to protect respondent's clients and manage the disposition of respondent's client files.

HOLDINGS

1. The petition for disability-based suspension was granted, and Jon W. Norris was indefinitely suspended from the practice of law in the District of Columbia, effective immediately; pending matters were held in abeyance.
2. Barry Coburn was appointed conservator to inventory respondent's files, make appropriate disposition of those files, and take other appropriate action to ensure continuity of representation for respondent's clients.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Jon W. Norris was a member of the District of Columbia Bar who was the subject of a disability-based suspension petition. The petition was unopposed by respondent and Disciplinary Counsel agreed to the requested relief. The court found that no partner, associate, or other responsible attorney was capable of conducting respondent's affairs after suspension, requiring appointment of a conservator to inventory and distribute client files and ensure continuity of client representation.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The District of Columbia Court of Appeals considered Disciplinary Counsel's unopposed petition and the Board's motion to file under seal. The court granted the motion to seal and granted the petition, indefinitely suspending respondent from practicing law and appointing a conservator to protect client interests.

DISPOSITION

other

OPINION

In re Norris

PER CURIAM.

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS

No. 22-BS-774

IN RE JON W. NORRIS, ESQUIRE,

Respondent. A Member of the Bar of the Disciplinary Docket Nos.: District of Columbia Court of Appeals 2022-D117, 2022-D122, 2022- Bar Registration Number: 426105 D123, and 2022-D141
BEFORE: Glickman and McLeese, Associate Judges, and Thompson, Senior Judge.

ORDER

(FILED—October 20, 2022) On consideration of Disciplinary Counsel’s unopposed petition on behalf of the Board on Professional Responsibility (“Board”) pursuant to D.C. Bar R. XI, § 13(c), to suspend respondent based on disability, and the Board’s motion to file under seal, and it appearing that both respondent and Disciplinary Counsel agree hereto, it is hereby ORDERED that the Board’s consent motion for leave to file under seal is granted. It is FURTHER ORDERED that the petition is granted, and respondent Jon W. Norris is indefinitely suspended from the practice of law in the District of Columbia, effective immediately, and any pending matters are held in abeyance pursuant to D.C. Bar R. XI, § 13(c). It is FURTHER ORDERED that respondent’s reinstatement to the District of Columbia Bar shall be in accordance with the provisions of D.C. Bar R. XI, § 13(g). It is FURTHER ORDERED that respondent John W. Norris’ attention is drawn to the requirements of D.C. Bar Rule XI, § 14, relating to suspended attorneys, and to 2 No. 22-BS-774 the provisions of D.C. Bar Rule XI, § 16(c), dealing with the timing of eligibility for reinstatement as related to compliance with § 14, including the filing of the required affidavit. It is FURTHER ORDERED that, it appearing that appointment of counsel under D.C. Bar Rule XI, § 15(a) is necessary because there is no partner, associate, or other responsible attorney capable of conducting respondent Jon W. Norris’ affairs subsequent to the suspension ordered herein, Barry Coburn, Esquire, is appointed as Conservator, to inventory the files of respondent Jon W. Norris, a suspended member of the District of Columbia Bar, to make appropriate disposition of such files, and to take any other appropriate action to ensure continuity of the representation for respondent’s clients. Because there are no other funds associated with respondent’s law practice available to refund or disburse to respondent’s clients or former clients, the Conservator will not be required to take control of financial accounts or client funds. However, the Conservator is authorized to disburse the funds in respondent’s account in the event that a client obtains a civil judgement against respondent, or if the D.C. Bar Clients’ Security Fund requests reimbursement if the CSF determines that one of respondent’s clients has suffered a reimbursable loss. It is FURTHER ORDERED that Barry Coburn, Esquire, shall file with the Board written acceptance of this appointment if he agrees to accept the appointment. It is FURTHER ORDERED that as promptly as possible, Barry Coburn, Esquire, shall provide the Executive Attorney of the Board a written estimate of the number of hours necessary to complete the inventory and distribution of the client files, and that he shall submit to the Executive Attorney monthly statements of the time spent and expenses incurred in carrying out this appointment. It is FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to D.C. Bar R. XI, § 15(e), Barry Coburn, Esquire, shall be compensated by the Board for the services rendered in carrying out the appointment at the prevailing rate under the District of Columbia Criminal Justice Act without prejudice to the Board seeking reimbursement from any appropriate parties. It is FURTHER ORDERED that should Barry Coburn, Esquire, determine, after conducting an inventory of the files, that additional assistance is required to carry out his responsibilities pursuant to this Order, that he shall notify the Board, which may, in its discretion, appoint an additional attorney or attorneys to protect the interests of respondent’s clients pursuant

to D.C. Bar R. XI, § 15 and to carry out the 3 No. 22-BS-774 responsibilities set forth in this Order of appointment. It is FURTHER ORDERED that respondent shall file an affidavit in compliance with D.C. Bar R. XI, § 14(g) with the court and the Board and shall serve a copy of the affidavit on Disciplinary Counsel.

PER CURIAM