

SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

Disciplinary Counsel v. Coriell

2016 Ohio 2922 (Ohio 2016) · No. 2015-1423 · Decided May 12, 2016

SUMMARY

The Ohio Supreme Court indefinitely suspends Jennifer Lynn Coriell from the practice of law following a certification of default and an interim default-judgment suspension. The order imposes requirements concerning cessation of practice, continuing legal education, client protection fund reimbursement, client notifications, and reinstatement.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Ohio
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Per curiam; Maureen O'Connor, Chief Justice; William M. O'Neill, Justice; Paul E. Pfeifer, Justice; Terrence O'Donnell, Justice; Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, Justice; Lanzinger, Justice; Judith L. French, Justice
JURISDICTION	Ohio
DECIDED	May 12, 2016
DOCKET	2015-1423
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	On order to show cause following the Board of Professional Conduct's certification of default and the court's interim default-judgment suspension.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published Ohio Supreme Court disciplinary order
PARTIES	Disciplinary Counsel v. Jennifer Lynn Coriell

TOPICS

[administrative law](#)[agency adjudication](#)[remedies](#)

PRACTICE AREAS

[legal ethics and professional responsibility](#)[attorney discipline](#)[administrative law](#)[remedies](#)

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the interim default-judgment suspension should be converted into an indefinite suspension under the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio.
2. What conditions and practice restrictions should accompany the indefinite suspension.

HOLDINGS

1. Because the Board of Professional Conduct certified a default and no objections were filed to the show-cause order, the court converted respondent's interim default-judgment suspension into an indefinite suspension from the practice of law.
2. An indefinitely suspended attorney must immediately cease practicing law, may not appear or perform legal services for others, and is subject to the specified reinstatement, continuing-legal-education, client-protection reimbursement, client-notification, property-return, fee-refund, trust-accounting, and compliance requirements.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The Board of Professional Conduct certified respondent Jennifer Lynn Coriell's default in a disciplinary matter. After the Supreme Court of Ohio imposed an interim default-judgment suspension and issued a show-cause order, no objections were filed.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Board of Professional Conduct filed a certification of default. The Supreme Court of Ohio imposed an interim default-judgment suspension and ordered the parties to show cause why it should not be converted into an indefinite suspension. No objections were filed, and the court converted the interim suspension into an indefinite suspension and imposed related conditions.

DISPOSITION

other

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

[Cite as Disciplinary Counsel v. Coriell, ___ Ohio St.3d ___, 2015-Ohio-2922.] DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL v. CORIELL. [Cite as Disciplinary Counsel v. Coriell, ___ Ohio St.3d ___, 2015-Ohio-2922.] (No. 2015-1423—Submitted May 4, 2015—Decided May 12, 2015.) ON ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE _____ {¶ 1} The Board of Professional Conduct filed a certification of default in the office of the clerk of this court on August 28, 2015.

On September 25, 2015, this court imposed an interim default-judgment suspension upon respondent, Jennifer Lynn Coriell, pursuant to Gov.Bar R. V(14)(B)(1). The parties were ordered to show cause why the interim default-judgment suspension should not be converted into an

indefinite suspension. No objections were filed, and this cause was considered by the court. {¶ 2} On consideration thereof, it is ordered and adjudged by this court that pursuant to Gov.Bar R. V(14)(E)(1), respondent, Jennifer Lynn Coriell, Attorney Registration No. 0072791, last known address in Delaware, Ohio, is indefinitely suspended from the practice of law. {¶ 3} It is further ordered that respondent immediately cease and desist from the practice of law in any form and that respondent is hereby forbidden to appear on behalf of another before any court, judge, commission, board, administrative agency, or other public authority. {¶ 4} It is further ordered that respondent is hereby forbidden to counsel, advise, or prepare legal instruments for others or in any manner perform legal services for others. {¶ 5} It is further ordered that respondent is hereby divested of each, any, and all of the rights, privileges, and prerogatives customarily accorded to a member in good standing of the legal profession of Ohio. SUPREME COURT OF OHIO {¶ 6} It is further ordered that before entering into an employment, contractual, or consulting relationship with any attorney or law firm, respondent shall verify that the attorney or law firm has complied with the registration requirements of Gov.Bar R. V(23)(C).

If employed pursuant to Gov.Bar R. V(23), respondent shall refrain from direct client contact except as provided in Gov.Bar R. V(23)(A)(1) and from receiving, disbursing, or otherwise handling any client trust funds or property. {¶ 7} It is further ordered that pursuant to Gov.Bar R. X(13), respondent shall complete one credit hour of continuing legal education for each month, or portion of a month, of the suspension.

As part of the total credit hours of continuing legal education required by Gov.Bar R. X(13), respondent shall complete one credit hour of instruction related to professional conduct required by Gov.Bar R. X(3)(B) for each six months, or portion of six months, of the suspension. {¶ 8} It is further ordered by the court that within 90 days of the date of this order, respondent shall reimburse any amounts that have been awarded against respondent by the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection pursuant to Gov.Bar R. VIII(7)(F).

It is further ordered by the court that if after the date of this order, the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection awards any amount against respondent pursuant to Gov.Bar R. VIII(7)(F), respondent shall reimburse that amount to the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection within 90 days of the notice of that award. {¶ 9} It is further ordered that respondent shall not be reinstated to the practice of law in Ohio until (1) respondent complies with the requirements for reinstatement set forth in the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio, (2) respondent complies with the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio, (3) respondent complies with this and all other orders of the court, and (4) this court orders respondent reinstated.

2 January Term, 2016 {¶ 10} It is further ordered that on or before 30 days from the date of this order, respondent shall do the following: {¶ 11} 1. Notify all clients being represented in pending matters and any co-counsel of respondent's suspension and consequent disqualification to act as an

attorney after the effective date of this order and, in the absence of co-counsel, also notify the clients to seek legal service elsewhere, calling attention to any urgency in seeking the substitution of another attorney in respondent's place; {¶ 12} 2.

Regardless of any fees or expenses due, deliver to all clients being represented in pending matters any papers or other property pertaining to the client or notify the clients or co-counsel, if any, of a suitable time and place where the papers or other property may be obtained, calling attention to any urgency for obtaining such papers or other property; {¶ 13} 3.

Refund any part of any fees or expenses paid in advance that are unearned or not paid and account for any trust money or property in the possession or control of respondent; {¶ 14} 4. Notify opposing counsel or, in the absence of counsel, the adverse parties in pending litigation of respondent's disqualification to act as an attorney after the effective date of this order and file a notice of disqualification of respondent with the court or agency before which the litigation is pending for inclusion in the respective file or files; {¶ 15} 5.

Send all notices required by this order by certified mail with a return address where communications may thereafter be directed to respondent; {¶ 16} 6. File with the clerk of this court and disciplinary counsel of the Supreme Court an affidavit showing compliance with this order, showing proof of service of the notices required herein, and setting forth the address where the respondent may receive communications; and {¶ 17} 7.

Retain and maintain a record of the various steps taken by respondent pursuant to this order. 3 SUPREME COURT OF OHIO {¶ 18} It is further ordered that respondent shall keep the clerk and disciplinary counsel advised of any change of address where respondent may receive communications. {¶ 19} It is further ordered that service shall be deemed made on respondent by sending this order, and all other orders in this case, to respondent's last known address. {¶ 20} It is further ordered that the clerk of this court issue certified copies of this order as provided for in Gov.Bar R. V(17)(D)(1) and that publication be made as provided for in Gov.Bar R. V(17)(D)(2).

O'CONNOR, C.J., and PFEIFER, O'DONNELL, LANZINGER, KENNEDY, FRENCH, and O'NEILL, JJ., concur. _____ 4