

SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

In re Asante

124 Ohio St. 3d 1496 (Ohio 2010) · Decided March 4, 2010

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of Ohio imposed an interim suspension from the practice of law on Lilian Antwiwaa Asante after receiving a certified copy of a judgment entry reflecting her felony conviction. The order also referred the matter for disciplinary investigation and established requirements concerning client notification, handling of client property and funds, continuing legal education, reimbursement to the Clients' Security Fund, and possible reinstatement.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Ohio
JURISDICTION	Ohio
DECIDED	March 4, 2010
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The secretary of the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline certified to the Supreme Court of Ohio a judgment entry showing respondent attorney Lilian Antwiwaa Asante's felony conviction. The court imposed an interim suspension from the practice of law and referred the matter to disciplinary counsel.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published per curiam disciplinary order of the Supreme Court of Ohio.

TOPICS

administrative law agency adjudication remedies

PRACTICE AREAS

attorney discipline legal ethics professional responsibility

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Supreme Court of Ohio should impose an interim suspension from the practice of law after certification of the respondent attorney's felony conviction.
2. What conditions and ancillary obligations should accompany the interim suspension.

HOLDINGS

1. Upon certification of a certified copy of the attorney's felony-conviction judgment entry, the court ordered Lilian Antwiwaa Asante suspended from the practice of law for an interim period and referred the matter to disciplinary counsel for investigation and commencement of disciplinary proceedings.
2. The suspended attorney must immediately cease the practice of law, comply with specified restrictions on employment and legal services, satisfy continuing-legal-education requirements, meet reinstatement conditions, reimburse qualifying Clients' Security Fund awards, notify clients and opposing parties, account for client property and trust funds, and file an affidavit documenting compliance.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“it is ordered and decreed that Lilian Antwiwaa Asante, Attorney Registration No. 0079520, last known business address in Columbus, Ohio, is suspended from the practice of law for an interim period, effective as of the date of this entry.” (1496)

“It is further ordered that this matter is referred to the Disciplinary Counsel for investigation and commencement of disciplinary proceedings.” (1496)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Lilian Antwiwaa Asante was an attorney licensed to practice law in Ohio. The secretary of the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline certified to the Supreme Court a judgment entry reflecting Asante's felony conviction. The court acted on that certification by imposing an interim suspension and related conditions governing her practice, client obligations, continuing legal education, reinstatement, and potential reimbursement to the Clients' Security Fund.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On January 28, 2010, the Board's secretary certified a copy of respondent's felony-conviction judgment entry to the Supreme Court of Ohio under Gov.Bar R. V(5)(A)(3). Pursuant to Gov.Bar R. V(5)(A)(4), the court entered an interim suspension, referred the matter for investigation and disciplinary proceedings, and imposed related compliance, notice, continuing-legal-education, and reimbursement requirements.

DISPOSITION

other