

# SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

## In re Dixon

95 Ohio St. 3d 1479 (Ohio 2002) · Decided May 31, 2002

### SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of Ohio imposed an interim suspension from the practice of law on Debra J. Dixon after receiving certification of her felony conviction. The order referred the matter for disciplinary investigation and imposed requirements concerning client notification, continuing legal education, reimbursement to the Clients' Security Fund, and reinstatement.

### CASE DETAILS

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT              | Supreme Court of Ohio                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| JURISDICTION       | Ohio                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| DECIDED            | May 31, 2002                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| DISPOSITION        | other                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE | The Supreme Court of Ohio received certification of a felony-conviction judgment entry against an Ohio attorney and entered an interim suspension order under the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio. |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE | Published per curiam disciplinary order                                                                                                                                                                                      |

### TOPICS

administrative law agency adjudication

### PRACTICE AREAS

attorney discipline professional responsibility legal ethics

### QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether certification of an attorney's felony-conviction judgment entry required or authorized the Supreme Court of Ohio to impose an interim suspension under Gov.Bar R. V(5)(A)(4).
- What conditions and professional obligations should accompany the interim suspension.

### HOLDINGS

1. Upon certification of a judgment entry reflecting the respondent attorney's felony conviction, the Supreme Court of Ohio ordered the attorney 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 cease practicing law, satisfy continuing-legal-education and reinstatement requirements, reimburse applicable Clients' Security Fund awards, notify clients and opposing parties, protect and transfer client property, file compliance documentation, and comply with the court's procedural and service requirements.

#### KEY QUOTATIONS

*"Upon consideration thereof and pursuant to Gov.Bar R. V(5)(A)(4), it is ordered and decreed that Debra J. Dixon, a.k.a. Debra Jeanne Dixon, Attorney Registration No. 0060090, last known business address in Cleveland, Ohio, be, and hereby is, suspended from the practice of law for an interim period, effective as of the date of this entry."* (95 Ohio St. 3d at 1479-1480)

#### FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Debra J. Dixon, also known as Debra Jeanne Dixon, was licensed to practice law in Ohio and had an attorney registration number of 0060090. The Secretary of the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline certified to the Supreme Court of Ohio a judgment entry reflecting Dixon's felony conviction.

#### PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On May 7, 2002, the Secretary of the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline certified a copy of Debra J. Dixon's felony-conviction judgment entry to the Supreme Court of Ohio. The court entered an interim suspension, referred the matter to Disciplinary Counsel for investigation and disciplinary proceedings, and imposed related compliance, continuing-education, client-notification, and reimbursement requirements.

#### DISPOSITION

other