

SUPREME COURT OF OKLAHOMA

State of Oklahoma ex rel. Oklahoma Bar Association v. Eugene Robinson

2021 OK 10 (2021) · No. SCBD-6982 · Decided March 1, 2021

SUMMARY

The Oklahoma Supreme Court approved Eugene Robinson's resignation from the Oklahoma Bar Association while disciplinary proceedings were pending. The Court ordered that his name be stricken from the Roll of Attorneys, imposed a five-year restriction on seeking reinstatement, required compliance with attorney-notification rules, and awarded disciplinary costs of \$68.90 against him.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Oklahoma
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Darby, C.J.; Kane, V.C.J.; Kauger, J.; Winchester, J.; Edmondson, J.; Combs, J.; Gurich, J.; Rowe, J.
JURISDICTION	Oklahoma
DECIDED	March 1, 2021
DOCKET	SCBD-6982
DISPOSITION	approved
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The Oklahoma Bar Association applied for approval of Eugene Robinson's resignation from the Oklahoma Bar Association while disciplinary proceedings were pending.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The Court exercised its discretion under Rule 8.2 of the Rules Governing Disciplinary Proceedings to approve or disapprove a resignation pending disciplinary proceedings.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published Oklahoma Supreme Court disciplinary order; precedential status is not otherwise characterized in the opinion text.
PARTIES	State of Oklahoma ex rel. Oklahoma Bar Association v. Eugene Robinson

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Robinson's resignation from the Oklahoma Bar Association during pending disciplinary proceedings complied with the requirements of Rule 8.1 of the Rules Governing Disciplinary Proceedings.
2. Whether the Court should approve the resignation, strike Robinson's name from the Roll of Attorneys, impose the applicable reinstatement restrictions, and order reimbursement of disciplinary costs.

HOLDINGS

1. Robinson's resignation pending disciplinary proceedings complied with Rule 8.1 of the Rules Governing Disciplinary Proceedings.
2. The Court approved Robinson's resignation effective January 21, 2021, struck his name from the Roll of Attorneys, prohibited him from applying for reinstatement for five years, required compliance with Rule 9.1 notification requirements, and conditioned future consideration of reinstatement on payment of \$68.90 in disciplinary costs.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“because an attorney's resignation pending disciplinary proceedings is tantamount to disbarment” (§17)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Eugene Robinson, admitted to the Oklahoma Bar in 1983, pleaded guilty in federal court to nine felony counts of failing to account for and pay over withholding and FICA taxes under 26 U.S.C. § 7202. He received concurrent five-year probationary terms, eight months of home detention, and a restitution order for \$159,121.05. While disciplinary proceedings were pending and after an interim suspension, Robinson voluntarily submitted an affidavit resigning from the bar, acknowledging the consequences and agreeing to comply with notification, client-file, reinstatement, and cost-reimbursement requirements.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Oklahoma Bar Association initiated disciplinary proceedings based on Robinson's federal felony convictions and transmitted his resignation affidavit to the Oklahoma Supreme Court. Robinson had previously been placed under an interim order of immediate suspension. The Supreme Court approved the resignation, struck his name from the Roll of Attorneys, imposed a five-year waiting period for any reinstatement application, and ordered reimbursement of disciplinary costs.

DISPOSITION

approved

CASES CITED

- State ex rel. Okla. Bar Ass'n v. Robinson, 2020 OK 100

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