

SUPREME COURT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

In re Administrative Suspensions for Failure to Pay License Fees Required by Rule 410 of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules

416 S.C. 455 (2016) · Decided February 26, 2016

SUMMARY

The South Carolina Supreme Court ordered the administrative suspension of listed lawyers who failed to pay their 2016 license fees required by Rule 410 of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules. The order directs the suspended lawyers to surrender their certificates of admission and explains the requirements and consequences of reinstatement and continued practice.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of South Carolina
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Costa M. Pleicones, C.J.; Donald W. Beatty, J.; John W. Kittredge, J.; Kaye G. Hearn, J.; John Cannon Few, J.
JURISDICTION	South Carolina
DECIDED	February 26, 2016
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The South Carolina Bar submitted to the Supreme Court of South Carolina a list of lawyers who had failed to pay their 2016 license fees. The court issued an order administratively suspending those lawyers from the practice of law pursuant to Rule 419(d)(1), SCACR.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether lawyers who failed to pay the 2016 license fees required by the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules should be administratively suspended from the practice of law.

2. What procedures and consequences apply to lawyers suspended for failure to pay the required license fees.

HOLDINGS

1. Lawyers identified by the South Carolina Bar as having failed to pay their 2016 license fees are suspended from the practice of law pursuant to Rule 419(d)(1), SCACR.
2. A suspended lawyer must pursue reinstatement in the manner specified by Rule 419(e), SCACR, and continued practice after suspension constitutes unauthorized practice of law and may subject the lawyer to disciplinary action or contempt proceedings.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Pursuant to Rule 419(d)(1), SCACR, these lawyers are hereby suspended from the practice of law.” (455)

“These lawyers are warned that any continuation of the practice of law in this State after being suspended by this order is the unauthorized practice of law” (455)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The South Carolina Bar reported that the listed lawyers had failed to pay their 2016 license fees. The court suspended those lawyers from practicing law and directed them to surrender their certificates of admission by March 24, 2016. The order also stated that reinstatement had to be sought under Rule 419(e), SCACR, and warned that continued practice would constitute unauthorized practice of law.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The South Carolina Bar furnished the court with a list of lawyers, including lawyers holding limited certificates to practice law, who had not paid the required 2016 license fees. The Supreme Court entered the suspension order directly under its rules; no lower-court proceeding is identified.

DISPOSITION

other

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