

SUPREME COURT OF OKLAHOMA

State ex rel. Oklahoma Bar Ass'n v. Dickson

377 P.3d 136 (Okla. 2016) · No. SCBD-6375 · Decided June 28, 2016

SUMMARY

The Oklahoma Supreme Court approved Kathryn Kimberlee Dickson's resignation from the Oklahoma Bar Association while disciplinary proceedings were pending. The Court ordered that her name be stricken from the Roll of Attorneys, barred her from seeking reinstatement for five years, and imposed client-notification and Client Security Fund reimbursement obligations.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Oklahoma
JURISDICTION	Oklahoma
DECIDED	June 28, 2016
DOCKET	SCBD-6375
DISPOSITION	approved
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The Oklahoma Bar Association sought approval of respondent Kathryn Kimberlee Dickson's resignation from the Oklahoma Bar Association pending disciplinary proceedings under Rule 8.1 of the Rules Governing Disciplinary Proceedings.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published Oklahoma Supreme Court disciplinary order; the opinion states that it had not yet been released for publication and remained subject to revision or withdrawal.

TOPICS

appellate procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

legal ethics

attorney discipline

professional responsibility

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Dickson's resignation from the Oklahoma Bar Association pending disciplinary proceedings satisfied the requirements of Rule 8.1 of the Rules Governing Disciplinary Proceedings.

2. Whether the Supreme Court should approve the resignation and impose the related consequences, including striking Dickson's name from the Roll of Attorneys and delaying any application for reinstatement.

HOLDINGS

1. The respondent's resignation pending disciplinary proceedings complied with Rule 8.1 because it was voluntary, made with knowledge of its consequences, and accompanied by the required acknowledgments and waivers.
2. Upon acceptance of the resignation, Dickson's name was ordered stricken from the Roll of Attorneys, and she was prohibited from applying for reinstatement for five years, subject to additional client-notification, file-return, fee-refund, and Client Security Fund reimbursement obligations.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the OBA's application is approved and the respondent's resignation is accepted and effective upon the filing of this order in the Office of the Clerk of the Appellate Courts.” (¶ 7)

“IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the respondent's name be stricken from the Roll of Attorneys and that she make no application for reinstatement to membership in the Oklahoma Bar Association prior to the expiration of five years from the effective date of this order.” (¶ 8)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Dickson, an Oklahoma Bar Association member since 1983, was charged with financially exploiting her mother by using checks and credit cards without permission, allegedly taking \$63,985.44. She pleaded guilty, received a six-year-and-six-month deferred sentence with supervised probation and restitution, and then submitted a voluntary resignation affidavit acknowledging the pending disciplinary matter and the consequences of resignation.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

After entering a guilty plea to felony financial exploitation of an elderly person and receiving a deferred sentence, Dickson submitted an affidavit resigning from the Oklahoma Bar Association pending investigation and disciplinary proceedings. The Oklahoma Bar Association moved for approval, and the Supreme Court of Oklahoma approved the application and accepted the resignation.

DISPOSITION

approved

CASES CITED

- In re Application of the OBA to Amend the Rules of Professional Conduct, 2007 OK 22, 171 P.3d 780

