

SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

In re Bower

2021-Ohio-619 (Ohio 2021) · No. 2021-0278 · Decided March 8, 2021

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of Ohio imposed an interim suspension from the practice of law on George Kevin Bower after receiving a certified judgment entry of his felony conviction. The court referred the matter for disciplinary investigation and prescribed requirements concerning cessation of practice, client notifications, continuing legal education, reinstatement, and reimbursement to the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Ohio
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Maureen O'Connor, Chief Justice; Maureen O'Connor, C.J.; Maureen E. Kennedy, J.; William M. Fischer, J.; Pat DeWine, J.; Michael P. Donnelly, J.; Melody J. Stewart, J.; Jennifer Brunner, J.
JURISDICTION	Ohio
DECIDED	March 8, 2021
DOCKET	2021-0278
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The director of the Board of Professional Conduct filed a certified copy of respondent George Kevin Bower's felony-conviction judgment entry with the Supreme Court of Ohio, which then entered an interim suspension order.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published Ohio Supreme Court opinion and order

TOPICS

administrative law

agency adjudication

PRACTICE AREAS

legal ethics

attorney discipline

professional responsibility

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the filing of a certified entry of Bower's felony conviction warranted an interim suspension from the practice of law under Gov.Bar R. V(18).
2. What ancillary restrictions and compliance obligations should accompany the interim suspension.

HOLDINGS

1. Upon the filing of a certified judgment entry of respondent's felony conviction, the Supreme Court of Ohio ordered respondent suspended from the practice of law for an interim period effective immediately.
2. The interim suspension immediately barred respondent from practicing law or performing legal services, required referral for disciplinary investigation and proceedings, and imposed specified notice, client-property, continuing-education, reimbursement, recordkeeping, and reinstatement requirements.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“respondent, George Kevin Bower, Attorney Registration No. 0009631, last known business address in Rittman, Ohio, is suspended from the practice of law for an interim period, effective as of the date of this entry.” (¶ 2)

“It is further ordered that this matter is referred to disciplinary counsel for investigation and the commencement of disciplinary proceedings.” (¶ 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

George Kevin Bower was an attorney licensed to practice law in Ohio. The director of the Board of Professional Conduct filed with the Supreme Court a certified judgment entry showing that Bower had been convicted of a felony.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On March 4, 2021, the director of the Board of Professional Conduct filed the certified felony-conviction entry pursuant to Gov.Bar R. V(18). The Supreme Court of Ohio imposed an interim suspension, referred the matter to disciplinary counsel for investigation and disciplinary proceedings, and imposed related practice, notice, continuing-education, reimbursement, and reinstatement conditions.

DISPOSITION

other