

SUPREME COURT OF OKLAHOMA

State ex rel. Oklahoma Bar Association v. Tripp

Tripp, 2019 OK 56 (Okla. 2019) · No. SCBD-6815 · Decided September 10, 2019

SUMMARY

The Oklahoma Supreme Court approved Douglas Stephen Tripp's resignation from the Oklahoma Bar Association pending disciplinary proceedings. The Court made the resignation effective June 21, 2019, struck his name from the Roll of Attorneys, imposed a five-year waiting period for reinstatement, and awarded \$99.61 in costs to the Bar Association.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Oklahoma
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Gurich, C.J.; Darby, V.C.J.; Kauger, J.; Winchester, J.; Edmondson, J.; Colbert, J.; Combs, J.
JURISDICTION	Oklahoma
DECIDED	September 10, 2019
DOCKET	SCBD-6815
DISPOSITION	approved
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Original attorney-discipline proceeding in which the Oklahoma Bar Association applied for approval of the respondent's resignation from the bar pending disciplinary proceedings.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	published opinion
PARTIES	State of Oklahoma ex rel. Oklahoma Bar Association v. Douglas Stephen Tripp

TOPICS

appellate procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

legal ethics

attorney discipline

professional responsibility

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Oklahoma Supreme Court should approve Tripp's resignation from the Oklahoma Bar Association pending disciplinary proceedings.
2. Whether the resignation should be effective as of the date of execution rather than the date it was filed with the Court.
3. What conditions and financial obligations should accompany approval of the resignation.

HOLDINGS

1. The Court approved Douglas Stephen Tripp's resignation from membership in the Oklahoma Bar Association pending disciplinary proceedings.
2. The resignation was deemed effective June 21, 2019, the date Tripp executed it.
3. Tripp's name was stricken from the Roll of Attorneys; he could not apply for reinstatement for five years from the effective date; he was required to pay \$99.61 in costs; and, before reinstatement, he must reimburse any Client's Security Fund payments made on his behalf, with interest.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the application by the Bar Association for an order approving Douglas Stephen Tripp's resignation be approved, and the resignation is deemed effective on the date of execution by respondent, June 21, 2019." (§16)

"IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that respondent's name be stricken from the Roll of Attorneys and that he make no application for reinstatement to membership in the Oklahoma Bar Association prior to five years from the effective date of his resignation." (§17)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The Bar Association was investigating allegations that Tripp continuously practiced Oklahoma law without an Oklahoma license from approximately October 2006 through November 2018 and represented to his law firm and clients that he was licensed. Tripp submitted an affidavit stating that his resignation was voluntary, free of coercion or duress, and made with awareness of its consequences. He waived the right to contest the allegations, agreed to comply with Rule 9.1, and acknowledged the possible consequences regarding reinstatement and Client's Security Fund claims.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Oklahoma Bar Association filed an application under Rule 8.1 of the Rules Governing Disciplinary Proceedings after Douglas Stephen Tripp submitted an affidavit resigning from membership in the Bar Association pending disciplinary proceedings. The Oklahoma Supreme Court reviewed the affidavit and application, approved the resignation, set its effective date retroactively to June 21, 2019, struck Tripp's name from the Roll of Attorneys, imposed a five-year bar on seeking reinstatement, and awarded investigative costs.

DISPOSITION

approved

CASES CITED

- State ex rel. Oklahoma Bar Ass'n v. Claborn, 2019 OK 14, 440 P.3d 660
- State ex rel. Oklahoma Bar Association v. Bourland, 2001 OK 12, 19 P.3d 289
- In re Reinstatement of Hird, 2001 OK 28, 21 P.3d 1043
- State ex rel. Oklahoma Bar Association v. Heinen, 2003 OK 36, 84 P.3d 708

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