

## SUPREME COURT OF WISCONSIN

# In the Matter of Disciplinary Proceedings Against Robert L. Taylor

720 N.W.2d 456 (Wis. 2006) · No. 2003AP587-D · Decided September 1, 2006

### SUMMARY

The Wisconsin Supreme Court granted Robert L. Taylor's petition for reinstatement to the practice of law after concluding that he satisfied the applicable reinstatement criteria by clear, satisfactory, and convincing evidence. Reinstatement was conditioned on compliance with continuing legal education requirements, monthly payments toward restitution and costs, and establishment of a client trust account.

### CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | Supreme Court of Wisconsin                                                                                                                          |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Per Curiam                                                                                                                                          |
| JURISDICTION          | Wisconsin                                                                                                                                           |
| DECIDED               | September 1, 2006                                                                                                                                   |
| DOCKET                | 2003AP587-D                                                                                                                                         |
| DISPOSITION           | other                                                                                                                                               |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | Attorney reinstatement proceeding reviewing a referee's supplemental report recommending reinstatement of Robert L. Taylor's Wisconsin law license. |
| STANDARD OF REVIEW    | The court reviewed the referee's findings of fact and conclusions of law and adopted them after reviewing the record.                               |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | Published Wisconsin Supreme Court opinion; precedential                                                                                             |
| PARTIES               | Robert L. Taylor v. Office of Lawyer Regulation                                                                                                     |

### TOPICS

administrative law

agency adjudication

### PRACTICE AREAS

legal ethics

attorney discipline

professional licensing

### QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Taylor established by clear, satisfactory, and convincing evidence that he satisfied the statutory and Supreme Court rule criteria for reinstatement of his Wisconsin law license.
2. Whether reinstatement should be granted subject to conditions concerning continuing legal education, restitution and costs, and establishment of a client trust account.

## HOLDINGS

1. Taylor demonstrated by clear, satisfactory, and convincing evidence that he satisfied all criteria necessary for reinstatement, including the moral-character, public-interest, petition-representation, and compliance requirements incorporated through SCR 22.31(1).
2. Reinstatement was properly granted subject to compliance with current continuing legal education requirements, monthly payments of at least \$200 toward restitution and costs beginning six months after reinstatement, and proof within 30 days of establishing a client trust account.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

*“While the evidence in support of Taylor's petition for reinstatement is not overwhelming, I am satisfied by clear, satisfactory, and convincing evidence that he should be reinstated at this time.” (458)*

*“After careful review of the record we agree with the referee that Attorney Taylor has established by clear, satisfactory, and convincing evidence that he has satisfied all the criteria necessary for reinstatement.” (459)*

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Robert L. Taylor was licensed to practice law in Wisconsin in 1979, but his license was suspended and later revoked after his conviction for felony theft of client funds and related misconduct. He later petitioned for reinstatement after an additional consensual revocation arising from pre-revocation misconduct. On remand, the referee found clear, satisfactory, and convincing evidence that Taylor had regained the moral character and fitness necessary to practice law, despite incomplete restitution and payment of prior costs.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Taylor's license had been revoked following felony theft of client funds and related misconduct. After filing a reinstatement petition, a referee initially recommended denial. The Supreme Court remanded for further proceedings concerning Taylor's moral character and fitness, after which the referee recommended reinstatement subject to conditions. The court adopted the referee's findings and conclusions, granted reinstatement, imposed conditions, and ordered Taylor to pay proceeding costs.

## DISPOSITION

other

## CASES CITED

- In re Disciplinary Proceedings Against Taylor, 148 Wis. 2d 708, 436 N.W.2d 612 (1989)
- In re Disciplinary Proceedings Against Taylor, 2003 WI 35, 261 Wis. 2d 1, 660 N.W.2d 665

---

Retrieved from lawtools.ai · <https://lawtools.ai/cases/state/wisconsin-supreme-court-of-wisconsin/2006/in-the-matter-of-disciplinary-proceedings-against-robert-l-wjplks80>