

SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

In re Resignation of Mayer

115 Ohio St. 3d 1217 (Ohio 2007) · Decided October 23, 2007

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of Ohio accepts Wallace James Mayer’s resignation from the practice of law with disciplinary action pending. The order withdraws his practice privileges, strikes his name from the roll of attorneys, and imposes client-notification, property-return, fee-refund, recordkeeping, and Clients’ Security Fund reimbursement obligations.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Ohio
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Moyer, C.J.; Pfeifer; Lundberg Stratton; O'Connor; O'Donnell; Lanzinger; Cupp
JURISDICTION	Ohio
DECIDED	October 23, 2007
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	An Ohio attorney submitted an affidavit of resignation and waiver pursuant to Gov.Bar R. V(11)(G)(1). After Disciplinary Counsel filed its report, the Supreme Court of Ohio considered and accepted the resignation.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published per curiam disciplinary order; primarily binding as to the respondent and the obligations imposed by the order.

TOPICS

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

attorney discipline

legal ethics

professional responsibility

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Supreme Court of Ohio should accept the respondent's affidavit of resignation and waiver with disciplinary action pending.
2. What restrictions and compliance obligations should accompany acceptance of the resignation.

HOLDINGS

1. The court accepted Mayer's resignation as an attorney and counselor at law with disciplinary action pending.
2. Upon acceptance of the resignation, Mayer's rights and privileges to practice law in Ohio were withdrawn, his name was ordered stricken from the roll of attorneys, and he was prohibited from practicing law or holding himself out as authorized to practice.
3. Mayer was required to reimburse applicable Clients' Security Fund awards and complete specified client-notification, property-return, fee-accounting, notice-filing, affidavit, recordkeeping, and address-maintenance obligations.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“It is ordered by the court that pursuant to Gov.Bar R. V(11)(G)(3) the resignation as an attorney and counselor at law is accepted as a resignation with disciplinary action pending.” (§ 2)

“It is further ordered and adjudged that from and after this date all rights and privileges extended to respondent to practice law in the state of Ohio be withdrawn” (§ 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Wallace James Mayer was an Ohio attorney admitted to practice in 1970. He submitted an affidavit resigning from the bar and waiving proceedings under the applicable disciplinary rule. Following Disciplinary Counsel's report, the Supreme Court ordered that his resignation be accepted with disciplinary action pending and withdrew his authority to practice law.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Wallace James Mayer submitted an Affidavit of Resignation and Waiver on July 24, 2007. The affidavit was referred to Disciplinary Counsel, which filed a report under seal on September 13, 2007. The Supreme Court of Ohio accepted the resignation with disciplinary action pending and entered related practice restrictions and compliance orders.

DISPOSITION

other

OPINION

In re Resignation of Mayer 115 Ohio St. 3d 1217

PER CURIAM.

{¶ 1} On July 24, 2007, respondent, Wallace James Mayer, Attorney Registration No. 0021834, last known business address in Westlake, Ohio, who was admitted to the bar of this state on May 2, 1970, submitted an Affidavit of Resignation and Waiver pursuant to Gov.Bar R. V(11)(G)(1). The affidavit and waiver were referred to Disciplinary Counsel pursuant to Gov.Bar R. V(11)(G)

(2). On September 13, 2007, Disciplinary Counsel filed under seal its report with this court in accordance with Gov.Bar R. V(11)(G)(2). Upon consideration thereof, {¶ 2} It is ordered by the court that pursuant to Gov.Bar R. V(11)(G)(3) the resignation as an attorney and counselor at law is accepted as a resignation with disciplinary action pending. {¶ 3} It is further ordered and adjudged that from and after this date all rights and privileges extended to respondent to practice law in the state of Ohio be withdrawn; that henceforth respondent shall cease to hold himself forth as an attorney authorized to appear in the courts of this state; that respondent shall not attempt, either directly or indirectly, to render services as an attorney or counselor at law to or for any individuals, corporation, or society, or in any way perform or seek to perform services for anyone, no matter how constituted, that must, by law, be executed by a duly appointed and qualified attorney within the state of Ohio. {¶ 4} It is further ordered that respondent desist and refrain from the practice of law in any form, either as principal or agent or clerk or employee of another, and hereby is forbidden to appear in the state of Ohio as an attorney and counselor at law before any court, judge, board, commission, or other public authority, and hereby is forbidden to give another an opinion as to the law or its application or advise with relation thereto. {¶ 5} It is further ordered that respondent surrender respondent's certificate of admission to practice to the Clerk of the court on or before 30 days from the *1218date of this order, and that respondent's name be stricken from the roll of attorneys maintained by this court. {¶ 6} It is further ordered, sua sponte, by the court that within 90 days of the date of this order, respondent shall reimburse any amounts that have been awarded against the respondent by the Clients' Security Fund pursuant to Gov.Bar R. VIII(7)(F). It is further ordered, sua sponte, by the court that if, after the date of this order, the Clients' Security Fund awards any amount against the respondent pursuant to Gov.Bar R. VIII(7)(F), the respondent shall reimburse that amount to the Clients' Security Fund within 90 days of the notice of such award. {¶ 7} It is further ordered that on or before 30 days from the date of this order, respondent shall: {¶ 8} 1. Notify all clients being represented in pending matters and any co-counsel of respondent's resignation and consequent disqualification to act as an attorney after the effective date of this order and, in the absence of co-counsel, also notify the clients to seek legal service elsewhere, calling attention to any urgency in seeking the substitution of another attorney in respondent's place; {¶ 9} 2. Regardless of any fees or expenses due respondent, deliver to all clients being represented in pending matters any papers or other property pertaining to the client, or notify the clients or co-counsel, if any, of a suitable time and place where the papers or other property may be obtained, calling attention to any urgency for obtaining such papers or other property; {¶ 10} 3. Refund any part of any fees or expenses paid in advance that are unearned or not paid, and account for any trust money or property in the possession or control of respondent; {¶ 11} 4. Notify opposing counsel in pending litigation or, in the absence of counsel, the adverse parties of respondent's disqualification to act as an attorney after the effective date of this order, and file a notice of disqualification of respondent with the court or agency before which the litigation is pending for inclusion in the respective file or files; {¶ 12} 5. Send all such notices

required by this order by certified mail with a return address where communications may thereafter be directed to respondent; {¶ 13} 6. File with the Clerk of this court and the Disciplinary Counsel of the Supreme Court an affidavit showing compliance with this order, showing proof of service of notices required herein, and setting forth the address where the affiant may receive communications; and {¶ 14} 7. Retain and maintain a record of the various steps taken by respondent pursuant to this order.

*1219{¶ 15} It is further ordered that until such time as respondent fully complies with this order, respondent shall keep the Clerk and the Disciplinary Counsel advised of any change of address where respondent may receive communications.

{¶ 16} It is further ordered, sua sponte, that all documents filed with this court in this case shall meet the filing requirements set forth in the Rules of Practice of the Supreme Court of Ohio, including requirements as to form, number, and timeliness of filings. {¶ 17} It is further ordered, sua sponte, that service shall be deemed made on respondent by sending this order, and all other orders in this case, by certified mail to the most recent address respondent has given to the Office of Attorney Services. {¶ 18} It is further ordered that the Clerk of this court issue certified copies of this order as provided for in Gov.Bar R. V(8)(D)(1), that publication be made as provided for in Gov.Bar R. V(8)(D)(2), and that respondent bear the costs of publication. Moyer, C.J., and Pfeifer, Lundberg Stratton, O'Connor, O'Donnell, Lanzinger, and Cupp, JJ., concur.