



OPINIONS
OF
THE SUPREME COURT
AND
COURT OF APPEALS
OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

ADVANCE SHEET NO. 43
October 31, 2018
Daniel E. Shearouse, Clerk
Columbia, South Carolina
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**THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Supreme Court**

In the Matter of Paul L. Erickson, Respondent.

Appellate Case No. 2018-000399

Opinion No. 27844

Submitted September 28, 2018 – Filed October 31, 2018

RECIPROCAL SUSPENSION

John S. Nichols, Disciplinary Counsel, and William Curtis Campbell, Assistant Disciplinary Counsel, both of Columbia, for the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

Paul L. Erickson, of Ashville, North Carolina, *Pro Se*.

PER CURIAM: By order of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission of the North Carolina State Bar dated August 14, 2008, respondent was suspended from the practice of law in North Carolina for five years.¹ *N.C. State Bar v. Erickson*, 07

¹ According to the order of discipline, respondent represented multiple North Carolina clients in 2003 and 2004 whom he knew to be participating in fraudulent mortgage-elimination and debt-elimination schemes. In relation to these schemes, respondent provided improper legal advice, made knowingly false and misleading statements in court, filed documents he knew to be fraudulent, and advanced fraudulent and frivolous legal arguments which relied on fraudulent documents, all with the intent to mislead various courts. The chair of the North Carolina Disciplinary Hearing Commission stated respondent's conduct caused "significant harm and significant potential harm to clients, to the legal profession, to the administration of justice, and to the public."

DHC 17 (N.C. State Bar Disciplinary Hearing Comm'n filed Aug. 14, 2008). Respondent, who was also licensed in South Carolina at the time of his North Carolina suspension, failed to notify the Commission on Lawyer Conduct in writing of his suspension as required by Rule 29(a), RLDE, Rule 413, SCACR.

Following his five-year suspension, respondent was reinstated in North Carolina on October 25, 2013. After being reinstated in North Carolina, respondent, believing he had been reciprocally suspended in South Carolina since 2008, contacted this Court to inquire about obtaining reinstatement in South Carolina. This contact led to the belated discovery of respondent's North Carolina suspension.

We find reciprocal suspension from the practice of law in South Carolina for five years is appropriate in this matter. However, we order the reciprocal suspension be retroactively applied from the date of respondent's North Carolina suspension.

RECIPROCAL SUSPENSION.

BEATTY, C.J., KITTREDGE, FEW and JAMES, JJ., concur. HEARN, J., concurring in part and dissenting in part.

HEARN, J.: I concur in part and dissent in part. While I agree with the imposition of a suspension, I would not apply the suspension retroactively from the date of respondent's North Carolina suspension.