

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN RE: DISCIPLINE OF ROBERT T.  
KNOTT.

No. 42911

FILED

MAR 26 2004

ORDER OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

JANETTEN BLOWY  
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT  
BY *J. P. Riland*  
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

This is a petition by the Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board for an order temporarily suspending attorney Robert T. Knott from the practice of law, pending the resolution of formal disciplinary proceedings against him.<sup>1</sup> The petition and supporting documentation demonstrate that Knott appears to have misappropriated over \$200,000. It further appears that Knott closed his office sometime in 2003, but failed to notify clients. Finally, although Knott was transferred to inactive status, at his request, on September 11, 2003, it appears that he has continued to practice law by appearing in court, filing documents with the court, and negotiating with other parties.

SCR 102(4)(a) provides, in pertinent part:

On the petition of a disciplinary board, signed by its chairman or vice chairman, supported by an affidavit alleging facts personally known to the

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<sup>1</sup>This matter was originally docketed as confidential because some of the misconduct alleged had not been charged in a formal disciplinary complaint. See SCR 121. Since we are granting the petition, we conclude that this matter should now be open to the public.

affiant which shows that an attorney appears to be posing a substantial threat of serious harm to the public, the supreme court may issue an order, with notice as the court may prescribe, imposing an immediate temporary suspension of the attorney . . . .

In addition, SCR 102(4)(b) provides that this court may place restrictions on an attorney's handling of funds.

We conclude that the documentation before us demonstrates that Knott poses a substantial threat of serious harm, and that his immediate temporary suspension is warranted.<sup>2</sup> We further conclude that Knott's handling of funds should be restricted.

Accordingly, Knott is temporarily suspended from the practice of law, pending the resolution of formal disciplinary proceedings against him.<sup>3</sup> In addition, Knott shall be prohibited from withdrawing funds in his client trust account, or from any other account containing funds belonging to third parties, except upon written approval of bar counsel or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction. The State Bar shall forthwith serve Knott with a copy of this order. Service may be accomplished by personal service, certified mail, or delivery to a person of suitable age at Knott's law office or residence. When served on either Knott or a depository in which he maintains an account, this order shall

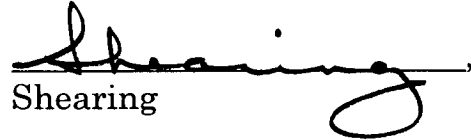
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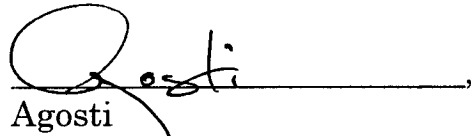
<sup>2</sup>See SCR 102(4)(a).

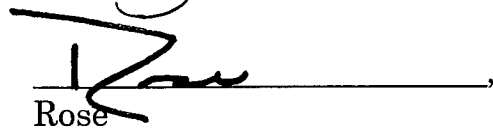
<sup>3</sup>Although SCR 102(4)(c) permits an attorney on active status fifteen days within which to conclude or transfer representation of existing clients, Knott is currently inactive. Accordingly, any representation of clients would appear to violate SCR 189, forbidding the unauthorized practice of law. Therefore, this order is effective immediately.

constitute an injunction against withdrawal of the proceeds except in accordance with the terms of this order.<sup>4</sup>

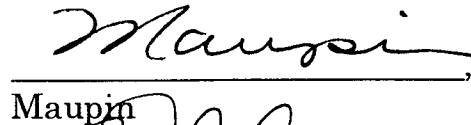
It is so ORDERED.<sup>5</sup>

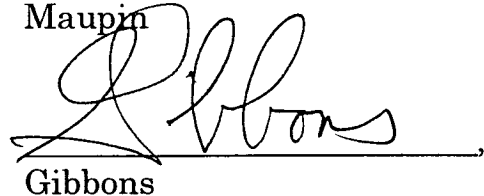
 C.J.  
Shearing

 J.  
Agosti

 J.  
Rose

 J.  
Becker

 J.  
Maupin

 J.  
Gibbons

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<sup>4</sup>See SCR 102(4)(b).

<sup>5</sup>Knott and the state bar shall comply with the notice requirements of SCR 115. As noted supra note 3, this order is effective immediately; the fifteen-day period provided for in SCR 115(3) does not apply.

This is our final disposition of this matter. Any new proceedings concerning Knott shall be docketed under a new docket number.

Justice Leavitt having died in office on January 9, 2004, this matter was decided by a six-justice court.

cc: Howard Miller, Chair, Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board  
Rob W. Bare, Bar Counsel  
Allen W. Kimbrough, Executive Director  
Perry Thompson, Admissions Office, U.S. Supreme Court  
Law Offices of Robert T. Knott, Jr.