

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINE OF
LAWRENCE J. DAVIDSON, ESQ.

No. 44161

FILED

NOV 10 2004

J. Smith
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
DEPUTY CLERK

ORDER OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

This is a petition by the Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board Chair for an order temporarily suspending attorney Lawrence J. Davidson from the practice of law, pending the resolution of formal disciplinary proceedings against him.¹ The petition and supporting documentation demonstrate that Davidson appears to have misappropriated approximately \$350,000 in settlement funds from his clients, has falsified court orders and judgments, has forged his clients' signatures to a release in order to obtain some of the misappropriated funds, and has disappeared, abandoning his practice and his family.

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

¹This matter was originally docketed as confidential because a formal disciplinary complaint had not yet been filed concerning many of the allegations. See SCR 121. Since we are granting the petition, we conclude that this matter should now be open to the public.

affidavit alleging facts personally known to the 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 Davidson poses a substantial threat of serious harm, and that his immediate temporary suspension is warranted.² We further conclude that Davidson's handling of funds should be restricted.³

Accordingly, Davidson is temporarily suspended from the practice of law, pending the resolution of formal disciplinary proceedings against him.⁴ In addition, Davidson 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 immediately serve Davidson with a copy of this order. Such service may be accomplished by personal service, certified mail, or delivery to a

²See SCR 102(4)(a).

³See SCR 102(4)(b).

⁴Under SCR 102(4)(c), Davidson is prohibited from accepting new clients immediately. He may continue to represent existing clients for fifteen days. Any fees or other funds received from or on behalf of clients during this fifteen-day period shall be deposited in a trust account, from which no withdrawals may be made except upon written approval of bar counsel or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

person of suitable age at Davidson's law office or residence. When served on either Davidson or a depository in which he maintains an account, this order shall constitute an injunction against withdrawal of the proceeds except in accordance with the terms of this order.⁵

It is so ORDERED.⁶

Becker, J.
Becker

Agosti, J.
Agosti

Gibbons, J.
Gibbons

cc: Howard Miller, Chair, Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board
Rob W. Bare, Bar Counsel
Allen W. Kimbrough, Executive Director
Perry Thompson, Admissions Office,
Supreme Court of the United States
Lawrence J. Davidson

⁵See SCR 102(4)(b).

⁶Davidson and the state bar shall comply with SCR 115.

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