

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN RE: DISCIPLINE OF TRAVIS
CHANDLER, ESQ., BAR NO. 8778

No. 58956

FILED

DEC 07 2012

TRACIE A. LINDENMAN
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY *[Signature]*
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

This is an automatic review, pursuant to SCR 105(3)(b), of a Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board hearing panel's findings that attorney Travis Chandler violated four rules of professional conduct and its recommendation that he be suspended from the practice of law for one year. Having reviewed the record of the disciplinary proceedings, we approve the panel's findings and recommendation to the extent that Chandler shall be suspended from the practice of law for one year.¹

The underlying facts in this matter provide that Chandler represented two clients in a patent matter where Chandler filed two different patent applications.² However, Chandler failed to respond to

¹Neither Chandler nor the State Bar submitted a brief challenging the panel's findings and recommendation.

²Chandler was publically reprimanded by this court in a case with similar facts to the one now before the court for violations of RPC 1.3 (diligence), RPC 1.4 (communication), and RPC 8.1(b) (bar admission and disciplinary matters). See In re: Discipline of Travis Chandler, Docket No. 55625 (Order Imposing Public Reprimand, July 27, 2011).

various notices from the U.S. Patent Office and failed to prosecute the applications. The patent applications therefore lapsed. Throughout his representation, the clients made numerous attempts to contact Chandler regarding the status of their patent applications. However, Chandler failed to communicate with them and failed to perform the tasks for which he had been retained.

The clients submitted a grievance to the State Bar stating that Chandler was non-responsive to telephone calls and e-mails. The State Bar sent Chandler numerous correspondences requesting a written response. However, he failed to respond. Chandler also failed to respond to the State Bar's subsequent formal complaint against him. The State Bar thereafter sent, via certified and regular mail, to Chandler's SCR 79 address notice of (1) its intent to proceed on a default basis, (2) the scheduled formal hearing, (3) designation of witnesses and summary of evidence, and (4) the order appointing formal hearing panel. Additionally, a process server was sent to the SCR 79 address with a copy of the filed pleadings in this matter. The process server made two unsuccessful attempts to deliver these pleadings. Chandler failed to respond to any of these notices and did not appear at the formal disciplinary hearing. The panel found that Chandler violated RPC 1.3 (diligence), RPC 1.4 (communication), RPC 1.15 (safekeeping property), and RPC 8.1(b) (bar admission and disciplinary matters).

The findings and recommendations of a disciplinary board hearing panel are persuasive; however, our automatic review of a panel decision recommending a suspension is conducted de novo, requiring the

exercise of independent judgment by this court. SCR 105(3)(b); In re Stuhff, 108 Nev. 629, 633, 837 P.2d 853, 855 (1992). We conclude that clear and convincing evidence supports the panel's findings, and that Chandler violated RPC 1.3 (diligence), RPC 1.4 (communication), RPC 1.15 (safekeeping property), and RPC 8.1(b) (bar admission and disciplinary matters). SCR 105(2)(e).

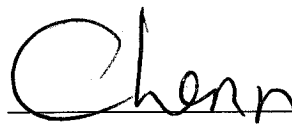
The panel further recommended that Chandler be suspended from the practice of law for one year. The panel also recommended that Chandler be required to submit full payment for the costs of the disciplinary proceeding pursuant to SCR 120 within 30 days after the state bar issues a bill of costs.

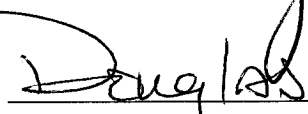
Having reviewed the record, we conclude that the recommended discipline is appropriately tailored to the circumstances. Accordingly, Chandler is hereby suspended from the practice of law for one year.³ Further, Chandler shall pay the costs of the disciplinary proceedings within 30 days of receipt of the Nevada State Bar's bill of

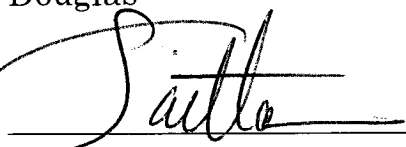
³We recognize that Chandler is currently suspended in Nevada for failure to pay his bar dues. The suspension in the instant matter is separate from and in addition to Chandler's existing bar dues suspension. The suspension in the instant matter shall not begin until Chandler resolves his bar dues suspension.


costs. See SCR 120. Chandler and the State Bar shall comply with the applicable provisions of SCR 115 and SCR 121.1.

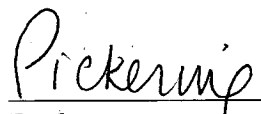
It is so ORDERED.

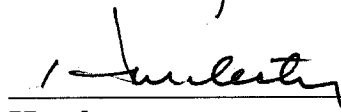

_____, C.J.
Cherry

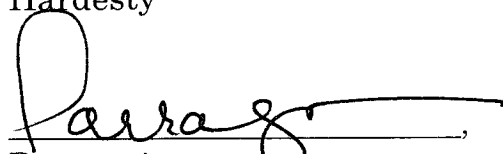

_____, J.
Douglas


_____, J.
Saitta


_____, J.
Gibbons


_____, J.
Pickering


_____, J.
Hardesty


_____, J.
Parraguirre

cc: Jeffrey R. Albregts, Chair, Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board
David Clark, Bar Counsel
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Travis Chandler, Esq.
Perry Thompson, Admissions Office, United States Supreme Court