

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINE OF  
DARREN WALKER, ESQ., BAR NO. 9214.

No. 52737

**FILED**

FEB 05 2009

TRACIE LINDEMAN  
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT  
BY *[Signature]*  
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

This is an automatic review of a Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board hearing panel's recommendation that attorney Darren Walker be suspended for 30 months with any reinstatement subject to several conditions.

Walker failed to respond to a three-count formal complaint filed by the State Bar, and his formal hearing therefore proceeded on a default basis, with the charges deemed admitted. See SCR 105(2). Walker was personally served with the complaint and with notice of the hearing date and time, but he did not appear at the hearing. The panel concluded that three violations of RPC 8.1(b) (knowing failure to respond to disciplinary authority) and one violation of RPC 5.5(a)(1) (unauthorized practice of law) had been shown by clear and convincing evidence. SCR 105(2)(e). The panel also considered, as an aggravating factor, Walker's "completely and utterly failing to respond to the Complaint or otherwise participate in the proceeding." See SCR 102.5(1)(e). The record reflects that Walker appeared determined to avoid the disciplinary proceeding and that the State Bar went to great effort to ensure that Walker received notice of all stages of the proceeding.

While a disciplinary panel's findings and recommendations are persuasive, this court reviews the record de novo to determine whether discipline is proper. In re Discipline of Schaefer, 117 Nev. 496, 515, 25

P.3d 191, 204, as modified by 31 P.3d 365 (2001). Walker did not file a brief with this court disputing the disciplinary panel's recommendations.

Having reviewed the record, we conclude that discipline greater than that recommended by the disciplinary panel is appropriate. Walker has exhibited an appalling disregard for the disciplinary process and has abandoned his responsibilities as a member of the Nevada State Bar. Accordingly, Walker is hereby suspended from the practice of law in Nevada for 40 months. Before he may seek reinstatement pursuant to SCR 116, Walker must pay (1) \$5000 in restitution to Alicia Mohammed, (2) \$900 in restitution to Debra Pellegrino, and (3) the State Bar's costs in this matter pursuant to SCR 120(1). Walker must also satisfy Nevada's continuing legal education (CLE) requirements during his suspension as a condition for reinstatement. SCR 210(1) (setting forth CLE requirements). Finally, before Walker may be reinstated, he must pass the Nevada bar examination. See SCR 116(5) (providing that proof of competency, including passage of the bar exam, may be required by this court as a condition for reinstatement).

It is so ORDERED.

/s/ Hardesty, C.J.  
Hardesty

Parraguirre, J.  
Parraguirre

Cherry, J.  
Cherry

Gibbons, J.  
Gibbons

Douglas, J.  
Douglas

Saitta, J.  
Saitta

Pickering, J.  
Pickering

cc: Jeffery D. Albregts, Chair, Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board  
Rob W. Bare, Bar Counsel  
Kimberly K. Farmer, Executive Director  
Darren L. Walker  
Perry Thompson, Admissions Office, U.S. Supreme Court