

ORDER OF THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Misc Docket No. 98- 9032

Appointment of a District Judge to Preside
in a State Bar Disciplinary Action

The Supreme Court of Texas hereby appoints the Honorable William W. Harris, Judge of the 233rd District Court of Tarrant County, Texas, to preside in the Disciplinary Action styled:

The Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. Leslie Deanne Snipes

to be filed in a District Court of Harris County, Texas.

The Clerk of the Supreme Court shall promptly forward to the District Clerk of Harris County, Texas, a copy of this Order and of the Disciplinary Petition for filing and service pursuant to Rule 3.03, Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

As ordered by the Supreme Court of Texas, in chambers,

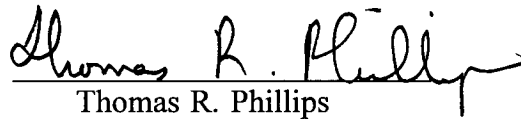
with the Seal thereof affixed at the City
of Austin, this 11th day of February, 1998.



JOHN T. ADAMS, CLERK
SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

This assignment, made by Misc. Docket No. 98-9032, is also an assignment by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court pursuant to Texas Government Code §74.057.

Signed this 12 day of February, 1998.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas R. Phillips". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Thomas R. Phillips
Chief Justice

NO. _____

COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCIPLINES §

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

VS §

_____ COUNTY, TEXAS

LESLIE DEANNE SNIPES §

_____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DISCIPLINARY PETITION

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW Petitioner, the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, a committee of the State Bar of Texas, complaining of Respondent, Leslie Deanne Snipes, showing the Court:

I.

Petitioner brings this disciplinary action pursuant to the State Bar Act, Tex.Gov't Code Ann. §81.001, et seq. (Vernon 1988), the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct and the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. The complaint which forms the basis of the Disciplinary Petition was filed with the State Bar of Texas on or after May 1, 1992.

II.

Respondent is an attorney licensed to practice law in Texas and a member of the State Bar of Texas. Respondent is a resident of and has her principal place of practice in Harris County, Texas. An officer may serve citation on Respondent at 2620-B South Shepherd Drive, Suite 188, Houston, Texas 77098-1534.

III.

Lori Matheson retained Respondent in April 1994 to represent her in a divorce action. Matheson paid Respondent One Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-four Dollars (\$1,284.00). Respondent deposited the money into her attorney trust account. Upon termination of her employment by Lori Matheson, Respondent failed to return any unearned portion of the One Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-four Dollars (\$1,284.00), and she failed to account for the money upon request by her client, Lori Matheson.

IV.

By failing to return the unearned portion of her fee to her client, and by failing to give an accounting to her client upon request, Respondent engaged in conduct in violations of Rules 1.14(b)[a lawyer shall promptly deliver to the client or third person any funds or other property that the client or third person is entitled to receive and, upon request by the client or third person, shall promptly render a full accounting regarding such property] and 1.15(d)[upon termination or representation, a lawyer shall take steps to the extent reasonably practicable to protect a client's interests, such as giving reasonable notice to the client, and refunding any advance payments of fee that has not been earned] of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, and of Rule 1.06(Q) of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

V.

The complaint which forms the basis of this lawsuit as hereinabove set forth was brought to the attention of the Office of the General Counsel of the State Bar of Texas by the filing of a complaint by Lori Matheson on or about December 2, 1996.


PRAYER

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Petitioner prays for judgment that Respondent be disciplined by reprimand, suspension, or disbarment, as the facts shall warrant; and that Petitioner have such other and further relief to which entitled, including costs of Court and attorney's fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven W. Young
General Counsel

Mary F. Klapperich
Assistant General Counsel
Office of the General Counsel
State Bar of Texas
1111 Fannin, Suite 1370
Houston, Texas 77002
(713) 759-6932
(713) 752-2158 FAX


MARY F. KLAPPERICH

State Bar No. 11550700

ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER

STATE BAR OF TEXAS



Office of the General Counsel

January 9, 1998

Mr. John T. Adams, Clerk
Supreme Court of Texas
P.O. Box 12248
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. Leslie Deanne Snipes

Dear Mr. Adams:

Enclosed please find an original and two (2) copies of a Disciplinary Petition being filed by the Commission for Lawyer Discipline against Leslie Deanne Snipes. Ms. Snipes has designated Harris County, Texas as her principal place of practice. Request is hereby made that the Court appoint an active District Judge who does not reside in the Administrative Judicial Region in which Respondent resides to preside in this case. Upon appointment, request is hereby made that you notify the Respondent at the address shown below and the undersigned of the identity and address of the judge assigned:

Leslie Deanne Snipes
2620-B South Shepherd Dr., Suite 188
Houston, Texas 77098-1534

As a practical matter, I would respectfully suggest that you inquire with the judge to be appointed as to whether he or she will be able to comply with the 180 day deadline by which the case must be set for trial set forth in Section 3.07 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. If not, I would respectfully request that an alternate appointment be made.

Once a trial judge has been appointed, please forward the original and two (2) copies of the Disciplinary Petition, the filing fee check, also enclosed herewith, and the Court's appointing order to the District Clerk of Harris County, Texas, with the request that the suit be filed, citation be issued, and citation, along with a file-stamped copy of the petition be returned to the undersigned.

Mr. John T. Adams, Clerk
Supreme Court of Texas
January 9, 1998
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Also enclosed are two (2) pre-addressed envelopes for your use in transmitting the petition, etc., to the District Clerk of Harris County, Texas, and a return envelope to be sent to the District Clerk of Harris County, Texas, for the Clerk's use in returning a file marked copy of the petition to the undersigned.

If you have any questions, please contact me. Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,



Mary F. Klapperich
Assistant General Counsel

MFK/rr
enclosures



THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

CHIEF JUSTICE
THOMAS R. PHILLIPS

POST OFFICE BOX 12248 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

TEL: (512) 463-1312

FAX: (512) 463-1365

CLERK
JOHN T. ADAMS

JUSTICES
RAUL A. GONZALEZ
NATHAN L. HECHT
CRAIG T. ENOCH
ROSE SPECTOR
PRISCILLA R. OWEN
JAMES A. BAKER
GREG ABBOTT
DEBORAH G. HANKINSON

EXECUTIVE ASS'T
WILLIAM L. WILLIS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASS'T
NADINE SCHNEIDER

FEB 19 1998

The Honorable Charles Bacarisse
District Clerk of Harris County
P.O. Box 4651
Houston, Texas 77002

Dear Mr. Bacarisse:

Pursuant to Rule 3.03 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, I am sending for filing State Bar of Texas Disciplinary Action styled: The Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. Leslie Deanne Snipes, and a copy of the Supreme Court's order appointing the Honorable William W. Harris, Judge of the 233rd District Court of Fort Worth, Texas, to preside in this Disciplinary Action.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

John T. Adams
Clerk

cc: Hon. William W. Harris
Ms. Mary F. Klapperich
Ms. Leslie Deanne Snipes



THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

CHIEF JUSTICE
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WILLIAM L. WILLIS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASS'T
NADINE SCHNEIDER

FEB 19 1998

Honorable William W. Harris
Judge, 233rd District Court
100 N. Houston Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76196

Dear Judge Harris:

We enclose for your information a copy of the order of assignment, a copy of the Disciplinary Action, a copy of the notification letter to Ms. Snipes and Ms. Klapperich, and a copy of the letter to the District Clerk of Harris County.

It is recommended that, six to eight weeks after receipt of this letter, you contact the Harris County District Court Administrative Office (713-755-7593) to find out the district court to which this disciplinary case has been assigned. We then recommend that, either before or immediately after you set the case for trial, you again contact the Harris County District Court Administrative Office (713-755-6593) to reserve a courtroom, provide for a court reporter, etc. Finally, you should contact the Presiding Judge of the Administrative Judicial Region into which you have been assigned (713-471-3911) to obtain information on lodging, allowable expenses, and claims forms for your expenses incident to presiding over this disciplinary case.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

John T. Adams
Clerk



THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

CHIEF JUSTICE
THOMAS R. PHILLIPS

POST OFFICE BOX 12248 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

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FEB 19 1998

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASST
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DEBORAH G. HANKINSON

Ms. Mary F. Klapperich
Assistant General Counsel, State Bar of Texas
1111 Fannin, Suite 1370
Houston, Texas 77002

Ms. Leslie Deanne Snipes
2620-B South Shepherd Drive, Suite 188
Houston, Texas 77098-1534

Dear Ms. Klapperich and Ms. Snipes:

Pursuant to Rule 3.02 of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, I hereby notify you that the Supreme Court of Texas has appointed the Honorable William W. Harris, Judge of the 233rd District Court of Fort Worth, Texas to preside in

Commission for Lawyer Discipline v. Leslie Deanne Snipes

Sincerely,

SIGNED

John T. Adams
Clerk