

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

DEC 14 2023

JEFFREY P. COLWELL
CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF
L. LIN WOOD, JR.

Disciplinary Case No. 21-CC-1

ORDER OF DISBARMENT OF L. LIN WOOD, JR.

Before the Disciplinary Panel is the October 11, 2023 recommendation of the District Court's Committee on Conduct that the Panel disbar Respondent L. Lin Wood, Jr. from the practice of law before the United States District Court for the District of Colorado.

On January 12, 2021, a member of the Court's bar filed a complaint against Mr. Wood related to statements that Mr. Wood made two days after the January 6, 2021 riot at the U.S. Capitol. A similar complaint had been filed against Mr. Wood with the Georgia State Bar. The allegations in the District of Colorado complaint and Mr. Wood's response to those allegations in his answer are immaterial to the decision of the Panel. However, as explained below, the procedural history and the disposition of the disciplinary proceedings in Georgia are relevant to the Committee on Conduct's recommendation and to this order of disbarment.

Under D.C.COLO.LAttyR 7(d), the Committee Chair assigned the investigation of the complaint against Mr. Wood to Subcommittee D. Because the disciplinary matter pending before the Georgia State Bar included similar allegations to those raised in the District of Colorado, Subcommittee D elected to monitor the Georgia State Bar investigation to its conclusion before proceeding further with the disciplinary complaint filed in this Court.

The Georgia State Bar initiated two disciplinary actions against Mr. Wood. *See In re L. Lin Wood, Jr.*, Disciplinary Board Docket Nos. 7514, 7564 (December 15, 2021 and February 7, 2022, respectively). Mr. Wood denied wrongdoing and, *inter alia*, argued

unsuccessfully before the Special Master that the disciplinary action against him was barred under Georgia's anti-SLAPP statute. Mr. Wood also filed a complaint in federal court against members of the Georgia Disciplinary Board of the State Bar of Georgia in their individual and official capacities. The United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia dismissed Mr. Wood's complaint against the Georgia Disciplinary Board, and the Eleventh Circuit affirmed the dismissal on appeal. *See Wood v. Frederick*, 2021 WL 2815051 (N.D. Ga. June 9, 2021), *aff'd*, 2022 WL 1742953 (11th Cir. May 31, 2022).

Based on Mr. Wood's disregard for the orders entered in the Georgia disciplinary proceedings and his failure to follow the directives of the Georgia Supreme Court to refrain from frivolous filings, the Special Master struck Mr. Wood's answers and defenses and ruled that the allegations in the complaint would be deemed admitted. *See In re L. Lin Wood, Jr.*, Order #20, pp. 12-13 (January 30, 2023). Thereafter, the Special Master conducted an evidentiary hearing to determine whether any aggravating or mitigating factors should be considered before discipline was imposed.

Before the Special Master ruled on the issue of discipline, Mr. Wood requested permission from the State Bar of Georgia to transfer his bar membership to retired status. *See In re L. Lin Wood, Jr.*, Notice of Dismissal of Formal Charges, Supreme Court Nos. S22B0488 and S22B0645, Disciplinary Board Docket Nos. 7514, 7564 (July 5, 2023). Because Mr. Wood was subject to pending disciplinary proceedings, he could retire only with the consent of and the limitations imposed by the State Bar of Georgia. *Id.* On July 5, 2023, the General Counsel for the State Bar of Georgia granted Mr. Wood's request to transfer to retired status. The General Counsel noted, however, that Mr. Wood's retirement under Georgia law "is unqualified, irrevocable and permanent" and that he "may not apply for readmission . . . [or]

practice law in this State or in any other state or jurisdiction. . . .” *Id.* Given the State Bar of Georgia’s consent to allow Mr. Wood to retire, the Georgia Supreme Court dismissed the disciplinary actions against Mr. Wood. *In re L. Lin Wood, Jr.*, Supreme Court Nos. S22B0488 and S22B0645, State Disciplinary Board Docket Nos. 7514, 7564 (July 7, 2023).

An attorney admitted to this Court’s bar must remain a licensed member on active status of the bar of at least one state, federal territory, or the District of Columbia. D.C.COLO.LAttyR 4(a)(1). An attorney who no longer satisfies this condition must, no later than 14 days after the attorney receives notice of the change of status, notify the clerk of the court of such change. *Id.* Similarly, when an attorney resigns from the bar of a court while an investigation of misconduct is pending, the attorney must, no later than 14 days after such resignation, give written notice to the clerk of this Court of the resignation and the fact that an investigation was pending. D.C.COLO.LAttyR 4(a)(3). In either situation, failure to self-report constitutes a separate cause for discipline. D.C.COLO.LAttyR 4(b). It is not disputed that Mr. Wood failed to self-report in violation of D.C.COLO.LAttyR 4 (a)(1) and (a)(3).

The Committee’s recommendation of disbarment, however, is premised on D.C.COLO.LAttyR 9, titled Effect of Resignation from Bar of Another Court While Under Investigation, which states:

On receipt of notice that any member of the bar of this court has resigned from the bar of any other federal or state court while an investigation into allegations of misconduct is pending in that court, the Panel may disbar or suspend the attorney from practicing as a member of the bar of this court.

The policy underlying D.C.COLO.LAttyR 9 is to prevent a member of the bar of this Court from thwarting the imposition of reciprocal discipline in this Court by the simple expedient of surrendering the attorney’s license to practice law during the pendency of a disciplinary

investigation in another court.

The Secretary to the Committee on Conduct notified Mr. Wood of the Committee's recommendation by email on October 16, 2023, attaching both the recommendation and the exhibits in support of the recommendation. When the Secretary received no response and no request for an extension of time to respond within the 21-day response deadline, he contacted Mr. Wood again and asked whether a response would be forthcoming. Mr. Wood responded by email on November 15, 2023 as follows:

I object to this recommendation. I have been afforded NO due process by the Committee. I have committed no ethical violation and am guilty of no wrongdoing.

I am fully retired and yet the Committee seeks to smear my name by taking an action that is totally unnecessary and is not warranted legally or factually.

This action is another example of a weaponized B.A.R persecuting a follower of Jesus Christ and a supporter of President Trump.

This is lawfare. This is The 65 Project at work. I call it communism where the rule of law does not exist for one targeted politically by the enemies of freedom.

I should be allowed to resign as I earlier requested. Let me go my way in retirement and the Committee can go its way.

We will ALL be held accountable for our actions in the fullness of time.

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”
- 2 Corinthians 5:10

I will pray for you and the members of the committee. I pray that you will make the right decision and not a bad one.

Mr. Wood claims that he was “afforded NO due process,” but he does not explain why his opportunity to respond to the Committee's recommendation is not sufficient due process. Moreover, he asks for no additional process in his response. He claims that the recommended disbarment is “not warranted legally or factually,” but he offers no support in law or fact for

either proposition. Mr. Wood does not deny that he requested permission to retire from the Georgia State Bar in the face of lengthy, contentious disciplinary proceedings. Nor does he deny that the effect of his retirement was not only the cessation of disciplinary proceedings in Georgia, but also him being precluded from ever practicing law in any court or jurisdiction. He does not deny that he failed to provide timely notice to the clerk of this Court pursuant to D.C.COLO.LAttyR 4 (a)(1), (a)(3). The Panel finds that nothing in Mr. Wood's November 15, 2023 email is responsive to the Committee's reasons for its recommendation or provides a persuasive reason not to disbar Mr. Wood.

One other issue deserves comment. The Committee's recommendation notes that D.C.COLO.LAttyR 9 states as follows:

On receipt of notice that any member of the bar of this court has resigned from the bar of any other federal or state court while an investigation into allegations of misconduct is pending in that court, the Panel may disbar or suspend the attorney from practicing as a member of the bar of this court.

Thus, Rule 9 uses the word "resigned," whereas Mr. Wood retired from the bar of the State of Georgia. The Committee's recommendation includes a detailed explanation of why Mr. Wood's retirement in the face of disciplinary proceedings in Georgia, which had the effect of causing those proceedings to be dismissed, falls within the scope of Rule 9 and therefore subjects him to possible disbarment. Despite Mr. Wood being sent a copy of the recommendation, Mr. Wood has not made any colorable objection to the Committee's analysis of this issue. The Panel agrees with the Committee's analysis and therefore finds that Mr. Wood is subject to disbarment under Rule 9 even though he retired from the Georgia bar as opposed to having resigned from the Georgia bar.


In consideration of the facts and circumstances of the Georgia disciplinary proceedings, including Mr. Wood's retirement and the subsequent dismissal of the disciplinary charges, Mr.

Wood's failure to provide notice to the clerk of court of the District of Colorado of his change in status pursuant to D.C.COLO.LAttyR 4 (a)(1), (a)(3), the October 11, 2023 recommendation of the Committee on Conduct, and Mr. Wood's November 15, 2023 response to the recommendation, the Panel determines that disbarment under D.C.COLO.LAttyR 9 is warranted.

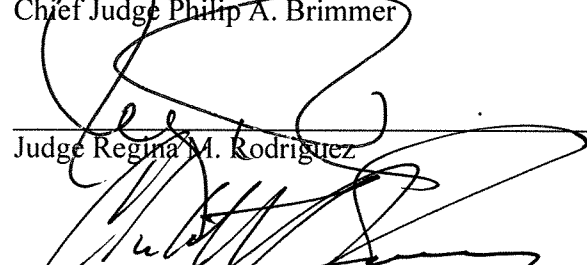
Wherefore, it is ORDERED that L. LIN WOOD, JR., is DISBARRED from the practice of law before the United States District Court for the District of Colorado.

Dated at Denver, Colorado this 14th day of December, 2023

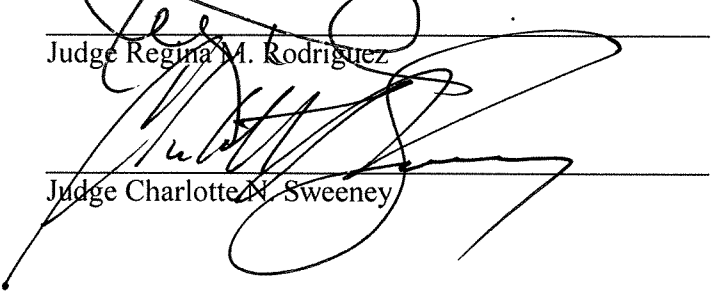
BY THE DISCIPLINARY PANEL OF THE COURT:



Chief Judge Philip A. Brimmer



Judge Regina M. Rodriguez



Judge Charlotte M. Sweeney

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

** CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE **

IN THE MATTER OF L. LIN WOOD, JR.

Disciplinary Action No. 21-CC-1

A true and correct copy of the Disciplinary Panel's Order of Disbarment, dated December 14, 2023, was served on the following by depositing the same in the U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, addressed to:

L. Lin Wood, Jr.
P.O. Box 52584
Atlanta, GA 30355-0584

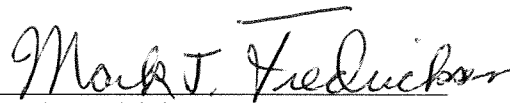
Jessica E. Yates
Attorney Regulation Counsel
Ralph L. Carr Judicial Center
Colorado Supreme Court
1300 Broadway, Suite 500
Denver, CO 80203

Delivery by internal routing: Christopher Wolpert, Clerk, Court of Appeals
Kenneth S. Gardner, Clerk, Bankruptcy Court

Delivered by Email:
All members of the Committee on Conduct

DATED: December 14, 2023.

JEFFREY P COLWELL, CLERK

BY 
Mark Fredrickson
Deputy Clerk