

THIS CAUSE came on for consideration before the undersigned Chair of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission pursuant to 27 N.C.A.C. 1B §.0115(d). Plaintiff, the North Carolina State Bar, is represented by Margaret Cloutier and Defendant, Michael F. Easley, is represented by Alan M. Schneider. Based upon the pleadings, review of certified copies of documents, and upon consent of the parties, the undersigned makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Defendant was licensed to practice law in North Carolina in 1976.
- 2. Defendant's address of record with the North Carolina State Bar is 2442 E. Lake Drive, Raleigh, NC 27609.
- 3. On November 23, 2010 Defendant tendered a plea of guilty pursuant to State v. Alford in Wake County Superior Court of North Carolina to one count of certifying a false campaign finance report, a felony. Defendant's plea was accepted by the court and Defendant was ordered to pay a \$1,000.00 fine and court costs.
- 4. The North Carolina State Bar will file a formal complaint against Defendant alleging he has violated the Rules of Professional Conduct based upon his felony conviction and the conduct on which the conviction was based.

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact the undersigned makes the following

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 5. The crime of which Defendant was convicted is a criminal offense showing professional unfitness as defined in 27 N.C.A.C. 1B, §.0103 (17).
- 6. 27 N.C.A.C. 1B §.0115 provides that the Chair may enter an order suspending the member from practicing law pending disposition of disciplinary proceedings before the Disciplinary Hearing Commission based on the conviction of such crime.
- 7. It is unknown at this time whether professional discipline will ultimately be imposed in this case. Possible disciplines the Disciplinary Hearing Commission is empowered to impose in any case include suspension and disbarment. If the DHC ultimately should impose any period of suspension or should impose disbarment in this case, Defendant will receive credit equal to the amount of time he has been suspended under this interim suspension toward service of any period of disciplinary suspension or disbarment that might be imposed.

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the undersigned Chair of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission enters the following

ORDER

The license to practice law in North Carolina of Michael F. Easley is hereby SUSPENDED until the conclusion of all disciplinary proceedings before the North Carolina State Bar relating to Defendant's felony conviction in Wake County Superior Court of North Carolina and the conduct underlying such conviction.

This the 8th day of <u>December</u>, 2010.

Sharon B. Alexander, Chair Disciplinary Hearing Commission

CONSENTED TO:

Margaret Cloutier, Deputy Counsel

Attorney for Plaintiff

Michael F. Easley, Defendant

Alan M. Schneider, Attorney for Defendant