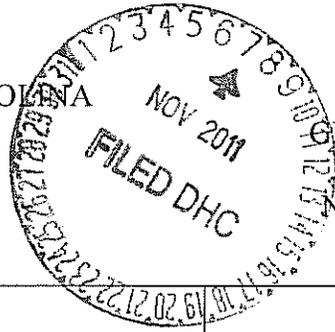


STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY



BEFORE THE
 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR
 OF THE
 NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
 10G0740

IN RE:

W. KENNETH HINTON, ATTORNEY

CONSENT ORDER
 TRANSFERRING MEMBER TO DISABILITY
 INACTIVE STATUS

This matter is before the undersigned Chair of the Grievance Committee of the North Carolina State Bar pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B § .0118(g). Brian P.D. Oten represented the North Carolina State Bar (“State Bar”). W. Kenneth Hinton represented himself. Based upon the information presented and with the consent of the member and of the Office of Counsel, the undersigned makes the following

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The North Carolina State Bar (“State Bar”) is a body duly organized under the laws of North Carolina and is the proper party to bring this proceeding under the authority granted it in Chapter 84 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, and the rules and regulations of the North Carolina State Bar promulgated thereunder.
2. W. Kenneth Hinton (“Hinton”), was admitted to the North Carolina State Bar on 18 August 1966 and is, and was at all times referred to herein, an attorney at law licensed to practice in North Carolina, subject to the rules, regulations and Rules of Professional Conduct of the North Carolina State Bar and the laws of the State of North Carolina.
3. During the times relevant herein, Hinton was engaged in the practice of law in the State of North Carolina and maintained a law office in Smithfield, Johnston County, North Carolina.
4. Hinton currently suffers from severe depression which significantly impairs his professional judgment, performance and competence as an attorney.
5. Hinton voluntarily consents to being transferred to disability inactive status.
6. The State Bar consents to Hinton’s transfer to disability inactive status.

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the undersigned makes the following

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

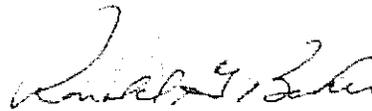
1. There is clear, cogent and convincing evidence that Hinton is disabled within the meaning of 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B § .0103(19).

2. Hinton should be transferred to disability inactive status with the State Bar.
3. Hinton and the State Bar voluntarily consent to Hinton's transfer to disability inactive status pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B § .0118(g).
4. The pending grievance against Hinton should be stayed during the period of disability.

THEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED:

1. W. Kenneth Hinton is transferred to disability inactive status.
2. Hinton shall not practice law in North Carolina until he is no longer disabled and has been returned to active status as a member of the North Carolina State Bar pursuant to the procedures set out in 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B § .0125(c).
3. The pending grievance against Hinton is hereby stayed during the period of disability until such time as Hinton returns to active status. The State Bar may continue to investigate allegations of misconduct and preserve evidence as necessary pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B § .0118(f).

This, the 7th day of November, 2011.



Ronald G. Baker, Sr., Chair
Grievance Committee

CONSENTED TO:



W. Kenneth Hinton



Brian P.D. Oten
Deputy Counsel