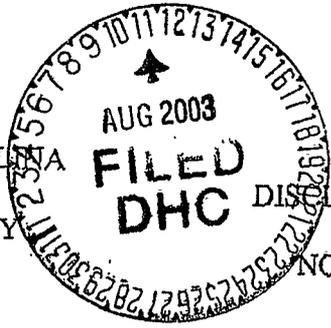


2442



NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE  
DISCIPLINARY HEARING COMMISSION  
OF THE  
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR  
03 DHC 10

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR )  
Plaintiff )  
v. )  
THOMAS W. JONES, ATTORNEY )  
Defendant )

CONSENT ORDER  
OF INTERIM SUSPENSION

THIS CAUSE came on to be heard and was heard before the undersigned Chair of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code Chapter 1, Subchapter B, Section .0115(d). Defendant, Thomas W. Jones, was represented by Orville D. Coward, Jr. and Fern Gunn Simeon represented the N.C. State Bar. Based upon the consent of the parties hereto, the undersigned makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The defendant, Thomas W. Jones (hereafter, Jones), was admitted to the N.C. State Bar in 1968 and was, at all times referred to herein, an attorney at law subject to the rules, regulations and Revised Rules of Professional Conduct of the N.C. State Bar and the laws of North Carolina.
2. Jones' address of record with the N.C. State Bar is P.O. Box 665, Sylva, North Carolina 28779.
3. On April 11, 2003, Jones was convicted by a jury of three felonies: 1) aiding and abetting bank fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1344; 2) making material false statements to influence the actions of a bank in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1014 and 3) conspiracy to commit bank fraud and make false statements to influence the action of a bank in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371.
4. Jones has not yet been sentenced for his criminal offenses.
5. On April 24, 2003, the N.C. State Bar filed a formal complaint against Jones, alleging that he had violated the Revised Rules of Professional Conduct, based upon his felony convictions.

6. Jones filed a timely answer to the complaint.
7. Trial on the State Bar's complaint is set for Aug. 15, 2003.
8. Following the filing of the State Bar's complaint the State Bar instituted an investigation of charges that client or fiduciary funds in guardianship accounts maintained by Jones had been mishandled.
9. Jones desires to cooperate with the State Bar and consents to the entry of this order.

Based upon the foregoing FINDINGS OF FACT, the undersigned makes the following:

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

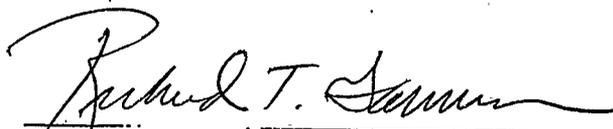
1. The offenses of which Jones was convicted are serious crimes within the meaning of 27 N.C. Admin. Code Chapter 1, Subchapter B, § .0103(40) of the State Bar Discipline & Disability Rules.
2. Jones' convictions are final within the meaning of § .0115 of the State Bar Discipline & Disability Rules.
3. Section .0115 provides that the Chair may enter an interim order suspending an attorney's license upon receipt of a certificate of conviction of a serious crime.
4. It is in the public interest that an interim order be entered suspending Jones' law license and directing him not to handle client or fiduciary funds until further order of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission.

Based upon the foregoing FINDINGS OF FACT and CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, the undersigned Chair of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission enters the following:

#### ORDER

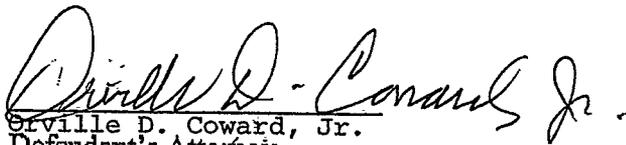
1. The license to practice law in North Carolina of Thomas W. Jones is hereby **SUSPENDED** until further order of the Commission.
2. The suspension of Jones' law license is effective upon service of this order upon him.
3. Upon entry of this consent order of interim suspension, Jones shall not handle client or fiduciary funds until permitted by further order of the Commission.

This the 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2003.



Richard T. Gammon, Chair  
Disciplinary Hearing Commission

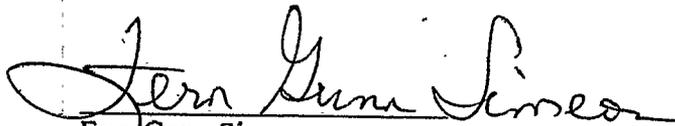
Seen and consented to:



Orville D. Coward, Jr.  
Defendant's Attorney



Thomas W. Jones  
Defendant



Fern Gunn Simeon  
Plaintiff's Attorney