

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR, Plaintiff)	
v.)	ORDER OF DISBARMENT
LEON ORR, JR., ATTORNEY Defendant)))	

THIS MATTER coming before the undersigned Chair of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code Chapter 1, Subchapter B, § .0117(d) of the N.C. State Bar Discipline & Disability Rules upon the defendant's affidavit of Consent to Disbarment executed on the 12th day of March, 2004 and filed with the undersigned on the 17th day of March, 2004 and the undersigned finds from that Consent to Disbarment the following:

- 1. The defendant's Consent to Disbarment was freely and voluntarily rendered, was not the result of coercion or duress and the Defendant was fully aware of the implications of submitting this Consent to Disbarment.
- 2. The defendant is aware that a hearing has been scheduled respecting the allegations contained in the State Bar's complaint in this matter and that by submitting this Consent to Disbarment he is giving up the right to defend himself against those allegations at that hearing.
- 3. The defendant has admitted that the material facts contained in the State Bar's complaint are true.
- 4. The defendant has admitted that he is guilty of the misconduct alleged in the State Bar's complaint which is incorporated herein by reference.
- 5. The defendant's Consent to Disbarment was submitted because the defendant knows that he could not successfully defend against the allegations in the State Bar's complaint in this matter.

6. The defendant has agreed that the order of disbarment will become effective immediately upon the signing of the order.

BASED UPON the foregoing findings, the undersigned concludes as follows:

- (a) The affidavit of the defendant contained in his Consent to Disbarment meets the requirements of 27 N.C. Admin. Code Chapter 1, Subchapter B, § .0117(d) of the N.C. State Bar Discipline & Disability Rules.
 - (b) The Consent to Disbarment filed by the defendant herein should be accepted.
 - (c) The facts as found constitute grounds for disbarment.

THEREFORE it is hereby ORDERED:

- 1. The defendant, Leon Orr, Jr. is hereby DISBARRED from the practice of law in North Carolina, effective immediately.
- 2. The defendant shall submit his license and membership card to the Secretary of the North Carolina State Bar immediately.
- 3. The defendant shall pay the costs of this proceeding as assessed by the Secretary no later than 30 days after receiving written notice of the costs from the Secretary.
- 4. The defendant shall comply with all provisions of 27 N.C. Admin. Code Chapter 1, Subchapter B, § .0124 of the N.C. State Bar Discipline & Disbarment Rules.

This the day of March, 2004.

Richard T. Gammon, Chair

Disciplinary Hearing Commission

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BEFORE THE
PLINARY HEARING COMMISSION
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
04 DHC 3

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR Plaintiff) }
v. LEON ORR, JR., ATTORNEY Defendant	COMPLAINT COMPLAINT COMPLAINT

The Plaintiff, complaining of the Defendant, alleges and says:

- 1. The Plaintiff, the North Carolina 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. The Defendant, Leon Orr, Jr. (hereafter, Orr), was admitted to the North Carolina State Bar in 1990, 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 all of the periods relevant hereto, Orr was engaged in the practice of law in the City of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Upon information and belief, it is alleged as follows:

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

- 4. Paragraphs 1-3 are realleged and reincorporated herein.
- 5. On or about Oct. 28, 2003, Orr undertook to handle a residential real estate loan closing for Lisa M. Bratton (Ms. Bratton), who was purchasing a home from her mother, Mamie J. Bratton.

- 6. Orr was directed to remit \$26,102.89 of the closing proceeds to pay off a first mortgage, \$22,404.08 to pay off a second mortgage and \$10,000 to pay off an equity line of credit. A copy of the HUD-1 settlement statement for Ms. Bratton's closing is attached hereto as Ex. 1.
- 7. Orr failed to pay off the first and second mortgages and the equity line of credit as directed and misappropriated the closing proceeds for his own use and benefit, without the knowledge or consent of his client. A copy of the affidavit of Ms. Bratton is attached as Ex. 2.

THEREFORE, the Plaintiff alleges that Orr's foregoing actions constitute grounds for discipline pursuant to N. C. Gen. Stat. Section 84-28(b) (2) in that Orr violated the Revised Rules of Professional Conduct as follows:

- a). By misappropriating funds belonging to Lisa Bratton and/or Mamie J. Bratton for his own use and benefit without the consent of his client, Orr engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation in violation of Rule 8.4(c), engaged in criminal conduct in violation of Rule 8.4(b) and engaged in a conflict of interest in violation of Rule 1.7(a).
- b). By failing to disburse funds as directed by his client, Orr failed to pay or deliver client funds as directed by his client in violation of Rule 1.15-2(a) and (m).

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

- 8. Paragraphs 1-7 are realleged and incorporated herein.
- 9. On or about Nov. 4, 2003, Orr served as the closing attorney for the sale of property at 107 Croft Drive, Kings Mountain, N.C. by Chase Manhattan Bank to Prestigious Homes, Inc. A copy of the HUD-1 is attached as Ex. 3.
- 10. Orr was directed to pay \$64,307.67 of the closing proceeds to Sovereign Bank on behalf of Chase Manhattan Bank.
- 11. Orr failed to remit the \$64,307.67 in closing proceeds to Sovereign Bank for Chase Manhattan Bank's benefit and misappropriated all or portion of the money for his own use without the knowledge and consent of his client.
- 12. On Dec. 8, 2003, Robert G. Kraus (Kraus) filed a grievance with the N.C. State Bar against Orr on behalf of Sovereign Bank. Kraus' grievance, a copy of which is attached as Ex. 4, was assigned file number 03G 1768.
- 13. On Dec. 11, 2003, Donald H. Jones served Orr with the State Bar's letter of notice and substance of grievance regarding Kraus' grievance and a subpoena for cause audit. Copies of the letter of notice, substance of grievance,

and subpoena for cause audit and proof of service of the documents are attached as Exs. 5-7.

14. Orr did not respond to the letter of notice regarding Kraus' grievance nor did he produce the documents as commanded by the subpoena for cause audit.

THEREFORE, the Plaintiff alleges that Orr's foregoing actions constitute grounds for discipline pursuant to N. C. Gen. Stat. Section 84-28(b) (2) and/or 84-28(b)(3) in that Orr violated the Revised Rules of Professional Conduct as follows:

- a). By misappropriating funds belonging to Sovereign Bank and/or Chase Manhattan Bank without their consent, Orr engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation in violation of Rule 8.4(c), engaged in criminal conduct in violation of Rule 8.4(b) and engaged in a conflict of interest in violation of Rule 1.7(a).
- b). By failing to disburse funds as directed by his client, Orr failed to pay or deliver client funds as directed by his client in violation of Rule 1.15-2(a) and (m).
- c) By failing to respond to the letter of notice and substance of grievance regarding Kraus' grievance, Orr failed to respond to a lawful demand for information from a disciplinary authority in violation of Rule 8.1.
- d) By failing to produce records and documents as required in the State Bar's subpoena for cause audit, Orr failed to respond to a lawful demand for information from a disciplinary authority in violation of Rule 8.1 and engaged in conduct constituting knowing, willful contempt of the N.C. State Bar, in violation of N.C. Gen. Stat. Section 84-28(b)(3).

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays that disciplinary action be taken against the Defendant in accordance with N. C. Gen. Stat. Section 84-28(a) and 27 N.C. Admin. Code Chapter 1, Subchapter B, Section .0114 of the Discipline & Disability Rules of the N.C. State Bar, as the evidence on hearing may warrant and that the Defendant be taxed with the costs permitted by law in connection

with this proceeding and for such other and further relief as is appropriate.

This the 2 day of Rebruary, 2004.

Hunter Wyche, Vice Chair Grievance Committee

Carolin Bakewell
Attorney for the Plaintiff
The North Carolina State Bar
P.O. Box 25908
Raleigh, N.C. 27611

U.S. Department of Housing SETTLEMENT STATEMENT and Urban Development CHO NO 2502-0255 Type of Loan 6, Mile Musibe 200389 LC Frank 3. Conv. Dains 8. Hortgage Ins, Case # Conv. Ins. VX LO 6789243695 C: Note: This form is furnished to give you a statement of actual sattlement costs. Amounts paid to ind by the Settlement Agent are shown. Items marked "(p.o.d.)" were paid outside the closing; they are shown bore for information purposes and are not included in the totals. E. Name and Address of Seller MAMIE J. BRATTON 6053 WILORA LAKE RD., AP CHARLOTTE, NC. 28212 F. Hame and Address of Lender, BANK OF AMERICA 9000 SOUTHSIDE BLVD LISA M. BRATTON 2066 WEST MORGANS BLUFF COU LITHONIA, GA 30058 JACKSONVILLE, FL 32256 Property Location 1333 LAKEDELL DRIVE CHARLOTTE, NC 28215 H. Settlement Agent LEON ORR, JR., ATTORNEY AT LAW Place of Sattlement 1.Sattlement Data 10/28/03 DISB_DATE: 10/28/03 . Summary of Borrowar's Transaction X. Sussary of Soller's Transaction 0. Grass Assumt Dia From Borrows 400. Gross Amount Due To Seller 115,000.00 Contract sales price 401. Contract sales price 115,000.00 2. Personal property 402. Fersonal property 1. Settlement charges to borrows (lineline 4. 2003 RE TAXES 3,214,23 1,181.02 403. 404 405. Adjustments for items paid by seller in advance Minutments for items paid by seller in advance . City/town taxes 405. City/town taxes . County taxes to 407. County taxes to

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405. Assessments

to

REPORTER TAX ID # 56-1827904

. Annessments

(704) 339-0271

The amount on line 401 on this form is important tax information and is being furnished to the Internal Revenue Service. If you are required to file a return, a negligence penalty or other sanction may be imposed on you if this item is required to be reported and the IRS determines that it has not been reported. This is a substitute form 1099-S.

MAMIE J. B BRATTON TAX ID #

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WAKE COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION 04 CVS

NORTH CAROLINA	04 CVS		
THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR v.)) AFFIDAVIT		
LEON ORR, JR. ATTORNEY	}		

Lisa M. Bratton, being first duly sworn, deposes and says as follows:

- 2. I am a citizen and resident of the State of Georgia.
- 2. On Oct. 28, 2003, I purchased real estate in Charlotte, N.C. from my mother, Mamie J. Bratton. Leon Orr, Jr., was the closing attorney for the transaction.
- 3. Mr. On was supposed to use a portion of the closing proceeds to pay off a first mortgage loan in the amount of \$26,102.89, a second mortgage loan in the amount of \$22,404.08 and a \$10,000 equity line of credit at Wachovia Bank. A copy of the HUD-1 settlement statement is attached hereto as Ex. 1.
- 4. As of the date of this affidavit, the outstanding loans and equity line of credit have not been paid off. A copy of my letter of Dec. 1, 2003 complaining to Mr. Orr is attached as Ex. 2.
- 5. I have not authorized anyone to use any portion of the closing proceeds for any purpose other than as set out in the HUD-1 settlement statement.

This the 31 day of <u>December</u>, 2003.

Lisa M. Bratton, PhD

Sworn to and subscribed before me

This the 31 day of December

Forge L Lunck:

My commission expires:

Notary Public, DeKalb County, Georgie My Commission Expires June 18, 2005





11/04/2003 15:29

7043390279

LEON ORR

PAGE 82

SETTLEMENT STATEMENT

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

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THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
PO BOX 25908
RALEIGH, NC 27611
TELEPHONE: (919) 828-4620

REC. NO STATE BAF:

OFFICE USE ONLY

2003 DEC -8 AN 9: 54

ne undersigned hereby complain against (Name of Attorney)

| Jeon Orr, Jr. |
| Idress | 1315 | Harding Place | (City) | Charlette | NC (Zip) | 28 204 |
| racticing attorney of | County. I agree to cooperate by furnishing to the representatives of North Carolina State Bar all pertinent information and records in my possession concerning the alleged misconduct of said mey. I further agree that if a hearing or inquiry is ordered concerning the alleged misconduct of said attorney, then I will furnish tence concerning the facts by submitting to deposition or personal attendance at the hearing or inquiry. I hereby indicate that this rmation is provided and transmitted by me to the North Carolina State Bar for the purpose of investigating the alleged misconduct

ne above-named attorney. I understand that I may also need to reveal this information to a privately-retained attorney to pursue ate remedies on my behalf. I further understand that the immunity granted by North Carolina General Statute 84-28.2 applies only use statements made without malice and intended for transmittal only to the North Carolina State Bar.

iny and to others pursuant only to the Rules and Regulations of the North Carolina State Bar.

The of Complainant Pierr G. Kraus

ye of Complainant Robert G. Kraus

Mrs., or Ms. Robert G. Kraus

ase circle correct TITLE and TYPE or PRINT legibly)

Signature of complainant

ess One Sovereign Way RII-ETV-02-17

East Providence State R1 Zip 02915

e Telephone (401) 254-2532

(Telephone (44) 432 - 2967

401-432-2955 Fax -

THIS AFFIDAVIT SHOULD BE NOTARIZED

Swom and subscribed before me this the 5%

day of December 20 03

(Notary Public)

My commission expireENORE P CASTORE

NOTARY PUBLIC RHODE ISLAND My Commission Expires 7/30/2007

DESCRIPTION OF YOUR COMPLAINT

E: In the space below, tell us what your complaint is about. Be sure to include all facts that you want the State Bar to consider, ling names, dates, and places. Use additional sheets it necessary. Attach copies (not originals) of any papers that support your laint. On 1/4/03 set sold an RED property and used Attry. Orr for a closing atterney. We were receive 464, 307. 67 from the closing. To date we have yet to receive any money from Attry. Orr so office starting 11/17 until 11/24 three times a day. Attry. Orr reserve I called Attry. Orr's office starting 11/17 until 11/24 three times a day. Attry. Orr reserve I called Attry. Orr's office starting 11/17 until 11/24 three times a day. Attry. Orr reserve I called Attry. Orr's office starting 11/17 until 11/24 three times a day. Attry. Orr reserve I called Attry. Orr's office starting 11/17 until 11/24 three times a day. Attry. Orr reserve I findly med my calls not gave any of his affect to staff any info or here proceeds. I finally not speak to Attry. Orr and he stated he is under investigation. But not to receive any of his files are being audited. This has caused Sovereign Bunk not to receive any of his files are being audited. This has already received his broken who sold the property 3cott F Bucharon of Re/Max his already received his broken who sold the property. Orclosed please filed supporting ilem receiving proceeds from the sale of the property. Orclosed please filed supporting ilem receiving proceeds from the sale of the property. Orclosed please filed supporting ilem receiving proceeds from the sale of the property. Orclosed please filed supporting ilem receiving proceeds from the sale of the property. Orclosed please filed supporting ilem receiving proceeds from the sale of the property.

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The North Carolina State Bar

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

John B. McMillan Chair

December 10, 2003

Mr. Leon Orr Attorney at Law 1315 Harding Place Charlotte, NC 28204

LETTER OF NOTICE

EXHIBIT

RE:

Grievance received from: Robert Kraus

Our file number: 03G1768

Dear Mr. Orr:

This is to advise that a grievance alleging misconduct on your part as an attorney was received in this office from the above-named individual. To assist you in preparing a response to this letter, I am enclosing the "Substance of the Grievance". It is not a pleading of any sort but is simply a summary of what appears to be the basis of the grievance.

Jnder 27 N.C. Admin. Code, Chapter 1, Subchapter B, Rule .0112(c) of the Discipline and Disability Rules of The North Carolina State Bar, you are required to respond to this letter within 15 days of its receipt. Such response must be a full and fair disclosure of all of the facts and circumstances pertaining to your alleged misconduct. If you fail to respond within 15 days, he Chairman of the Grievance Committee may proceed under Rule .0112(f) of the rules.

Inder Rule .0112(d), a copy of your response may be provided to the complaining party inless you object thereto in writing. Please note your objection in your written response to he grievance:

lease give this matter your immediate attention.

ery truly yours,

John B. Mchillan

hn B. McMillan, Chair rievance Committee

M/lr

iclosure.

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Fayetteville Street Mall/Post Office Box 25908 /Raleigh, NC 27611/(919) 828-4620/Fax (919) 834-8156

SUBSTANCE OF GRIEVANCE

FILE NUMBER:

03G1768

DATE FILE RECEIVED: 12/8/03

Leon Orr

Attorney/Respondent's Name

North Carolina State Bar Complainant's Name

1315 Harding Place

One Sovereign Way

Charlotte, NC 28204

East Providence, RI 02915

THE SUBSTANCE OF GRIEVANCE:

Respondent was the closing attorney for a sale of real property by Robert G. Kraus on Nov. 4, 2003. According to the settlement statement, Kraus was to receive \$64,307.67 in proceeds from the transaction. Kraus has not received any funds despite respondent's assurances that the funds will be paid.

It is unclear whether respondent has held these funds intact in his trust account.

VIOLATIONS OF REVISED RPC INDICATED:

Revised Rule 1.3

Revised Rule 1.15-2

Revised Rule 1.15-3



NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR 03G1768

IN RE:	GRIEVANCE AGAINST)	SUBPOENA FOR CAUSE AUDIT
	LEON ORR, ATTORNEY	.)	

TO: Leon Orr
Attorney at Law
1315 Harding Place
Charlotte, NC 28204

Pursuant to TITLE 27 N.C. ADMINISTRATIVE Code, Chapter 1, Subchapter B, SECTION .0128(a), you are hereby directed to produce for inspection, copy and audit by the Counsel of the North Carolina State Bar or her staff all records relating to your handling of client funds that are required to be kept pursuant to Rule 1.15-3 of the Rules of Professional Conduct. You are directed to appear and produce said records at the offices of the North Carolina State Bar, 208 Fayetteville Street Mall, Raleigh, NC 27611 at 2 0 0 2 003, or at such other time and place as may be agreed upon by you and the Counsel or Investigator of the North Carolina State Bar.

This subpoena is issued pursuant to the authority stated above because of facts coming to the attention of the State Bar, which, if true, would constitute a probable violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct concerning the handling of client funds. A Letter of Notice and Substance of Grievance setting out the matters under investigation are attached hereto.

JOHN B. McMILLAN, CHAIR

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