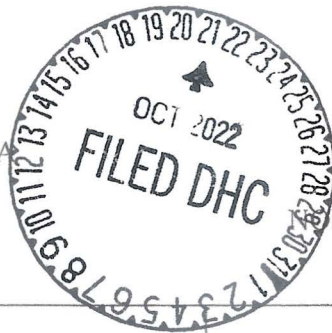


STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY



BEFORE THE COUNCIL  
OF THE  
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR  
22 BCS 4

IN THE MATTER OF THE TENDER  
OF SURRENDER OF LICENSE OF

MEGHAN E. ASHWORTH

ORDER OF DISBARMENT

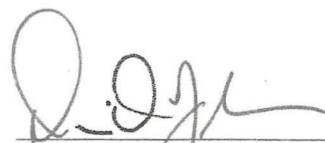
THIS MATTER came before the Council of the North Carolina State Bar pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code, Chapter 1, Subchapter B, Section .0121(a) of the State Bar Discipline & Disability Rules upon tender of an affidavit of surrender of license executed by Meghan E. Ashworth ("Ashworth").

Based upon the affidavit, the Council finds that by diverting and withholding \$16,433.26 of legal fees that lawfully belonged to her prior law firm, Ashworth engaged in conduct involving misrepresentation that reflects adversely on her fitness as a lawyer in violation of Rule 8.4(c) of the North Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct. Ashworth has made restitution to the law firm. Ashworth's conduct constitutes grounds for discipline pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §84-28(b)(2).

WHEREFORE, upon motion made and duly seconded, the Council enters the following Order:

1. The tender of surrender of license of Meghan E. Ashworth is hereby accepted.
2. Meghan E. Ashworth is hereby DISBARRED from the practice of law in North Carolina.
3. The administrative fees of this action are taxed against Ashworth.
4. Ashworth shall comply with the provisions of 27 N.C. Admin. Code, Chapter 1, Subchapter B, Section .0128 of the State Bar Discipline & Disability Rules. Ashworth shall surrender her license and permanent membership card to the Secretary of the North Carolina State Bar along with the affidavit required by § .0128 of the State Bar Discipline & Disability Rules within ten (10) days of the entry of this order.
5. The effective date of the disbarment is the date the Council accepted the surrender pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B.0121(b) as dated by the President below.

Done and ordered this 21 day of October, 2022.

  
Darrin D. Jordan  
President  
North Carolina State Bar

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY



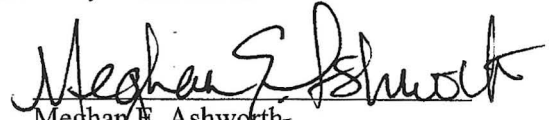
BEFORE THE COUNCIL  
OF THE  
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR  
22 BCS 4

AFFIDAVIT TENDERING THE SURRENDER OF THE LICENSE OF  
MEGHAN E. ASHWORTH

I, MEGHAN E. ASHWORTH, being first duly sworn, say:

1. I desire to resign and hereby tender my license to practice law in North Carolina pursuant to the provisions of Section .0121 of the North Carolina State Bar Discipline and Disability Rules, 27 N.C. Admin. Code Chapter 1, Subchapter B, Section .0121.
2. My resignation is freely and voluntarily rendered. It is not the result of coercion or duress. I am fully aware of the implication of submitting my resignation.
3. I am aware that there is an investigation pending against me regarding allegations that I engaged in misconduct by diverting legal fees that lawfully belonged to and should have been paid over to the law firm where I was employed. I have made restitution to the law firm.
4. I acknowledge that the material facts upon which the grievance is predicated are true.
5. I am submitting my resignation because I know that if disciplinary charges were brought against me for withholding these fees without informing the law firm, I could not successfully defend against them.
6. I understand that the hearing by the Council of the North Carolina State Bar with regard to the acceptance of the tender of surrender of my license to practice law will occur at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the North Carolina State Bar on Friday, October 21, 2022.
7. I hereby waive any further notice of the hearing before the Council on my affidavit of surrender. I waive any claim, argument, or assertion that I have not received proper or timely notice of the hearing before the Council on my affidavit of surrender or any other defect in notice. I further waive any and all right or privilege to appear before the Council at that hearing.
8. I affirm that I have had a full opportunity to seek the advice and counsel of an attorney in filing my Affidavit of Surrender and in waiving any rights set forth herein.

Respectfully submitted, this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022.

  
Meghan E. Ashworth

I, LISA M. RAMPELLO, Notary Public of the County of WAKE, State of North Carolina, certify that Meghan E. Ashworth personally appeared before me this day, was sworn, attested that the foregoing Affidavit is true and accurate of her own personal knowledge, and executed the foregoing Affidavit.

This the 20 day of OCTOBER, 2022

  
Notary Public  
(print name) LISA M. RAMPELLO

My commission expires: 12/3/2022

