

DATE: April 14, 2025

TIME: 04/14/2025 2:39:34 PM

WAKE COUNTY

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES OFFICE

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA BY: S. Smallwood IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
 SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
 WAKE COUNTY 25CV011675-910

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR,
 Petitioner

v.

TAYLOR MORGAN DANT,
 Attorney,

Respondent

TEMPORARY
 RESTRAINING
 ORDER

THIS MATTER came on to be heard and was heard by the undersigned Superior Court Judge pursuant to Motion for Temporary Restraining Order and Petition for Preliminary Injunction filed by Petitioner. Petitioner, the North Carolina State Bar, was represented by Kelley A. DeAngelus and J. Cameron Lee, Deputy Counsel. Respondent, Taylor M. Dant did not appear at the hearing. Based upon the motion, exhibits, and affidavits attached, the Court makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On June 26, 2024, Judge D. Thomas Lambeth, Jr., the then-Senior Resident Superior Court Judge in Alamance County, acting pursuant to the court's inherent authority to regulate the conduct of attorneys who appear before it, issued a disciplinary Order to Show Cause to Dant.

2. Judge Lambeth's order was based upon a Motion for Order to Show Cause filed by Judge Graham Shirley on June 20, 2024.

3. In his Motion, Judge Shirley alleged that Dant "exhibited behaviors that indicate that she may have a mental and/or physical condition which significantly impairs her professional judgment, performance, or competence as an attorney." Judge Shirley's allegations in support of the foregoing assertion include the following:

4. On April 7, 2022, Dant, acting on behalf of former client Gary Price, filed a lawsuit against her former employer in Alamance County Superior Court (*Gary Nelson Price v. Jeffrey McMillion and McMillion Law, LLC*, 22CVS655) (the "First McMillion Case").

5. On July 19, 2022, Judge Lindsay Davis granted Defendant's motion to dismiss the First McMillion Case pursuant to Rule 12(b)(c).

6. After the court dismissed the First McMillion Case, Dant filed two subsequent lawsuits against McMillion and McMillion Law, LLC, that arose out of the same core facts as the First McMillion Case.

7. The first of the two subsequent lawsuits, *Gary Nelson Price v. Jeffrey McMillion and McMillion Law, LLC*, 22CVS1472 (the “Second McMillion Case”), was dismissed by Judge Andrew Hanford after he determined that the case was barred by *res judicata*.

8. Nevertheless, despite Judge Hanford’s order dismissing the Second McMillion Case, and without having any basis in fact or law for doing so, Dant filed a third lawsuit against McMillion and McMillion Law, LLC (*Gary Nelson Price v. Jeffrey McMillion and McMillion Law, LLC*, 22CVS2141 (the “Third McMillion Case”)).

9. In response to the Third McMillion Case, the defendant filed a Motion for Sanctions and Motion for Protective Order asking the court, *inter alia*, to enjoin Dant from filing further civil actions against him arising out of the core facts of the First, Second, and Third McMillion Cases.

10. Judge Lambeth heard McMillion’s Motion for Sanctions and Motion for Protective Order on January 4, 2023.

11. By email dated January 26, 2023, Judge Lambeth informed the parties that he had decided to grant McMillion’s motion. A few hours later, at 6:37 pm, Dant sent Judge Lambeth an unsolicited, lengthy, largely incoherent email. In her email, along with rehashing several aspects of the McMillion Cases, Dant discussed matters wholly unrelated to the merits of the McMillion Cases.

12. On February 9, 2023, Judge Lambeth issued an order dismissing the Third McMillion Case and prohibiting Dant from filing any future lawsuits arising out of the core facts of the McMillion Cases.

13. Dant represented the plaintiffs in a civil action, *Pugh v. Garrett et al.*, 21CVS1444 (Alamance County). Defendants filed a Motion for Sanctions against Plaintiffs for failing to comply with the court’s Order to Compel Plaintiffs to respond to discovery.

14. A hearing on the Motion for Sanctions was scheduled for December 11, 2023 before Superior Court Judge A. Graham Shirley, II.

15. At 8:26 a.m. December 11, 2023, Dant emailed Defendants and the Alamance County Trial Court Administrator that “she may not be present for calendar call. I have to step in for First Appearances and there are a lot of them. I will give you a call as well.”

16. No Alamance County Criminal District Court First Appearances were held the morning of December 11, 2023.

17. All Alamance County Criminal District Court First Appearances were held at 2:00 p.m. on December 11, 2023.

18. In her response to Dant’s email, the trial court administrator informed Dant that “[b]ased on the estimated times, we should get to this one around 11:00, but it could be sooner.”

19. Thereafter, Dant sent another email at 10:20 a.m. to Defendants and the Trial Court Administrator stating that she “just finished interviews with the First Appearances. The earliest I can be there, [sic] is 11.”

20. In response to an email from the Trial Court Administrator, sent on behalf of Judge Shirley, inquiring why Dant could not be in court before 11:00 a.m., Dant replied that “If I am the last case on the docket, I waive my appearance. This motion does not harm my clients.”

21. Dant’s waiver of appearance and failure to appear for the hearing on the Motion for Sanctions led to the dismissal with prejudice of her client’s claims against Defendants and resulted in the imposition of monetary sanctions against her client.

22. The next day, on December 12, 2023, after unambiguously waiving her appearance in writing and stating that Defendant’s Motion for Sanctions did not harm her clients, Dant sent an email to Defendants and the Trial Court Administrator laden with cognitive distortions.

23. Among Dant’s statements, she claimed that the hearing was “improperly held ex parte,” that she “was not properly notified in Good Faith [sic]” about the hearing date, and that she was not afforded “the time, notice [sic] and ability of an officer of the court to defend themselves, their law license, and their clients” required by a sanctions hearing.

24. During Dant’s representation of the Pughs, Kecia Pugh witnessed a progressive change in Dant’s behavior that suggests that Dant began experiencing a mental health crisis:

11. When Ms. Dant first began working on our case at McMillion Law she came off as professional and knowledgeable. However, over time her behavior and actions changed. Ms. Dant began sharing with us her conspiracy theories about our case. She believed that all the defendants were working together because they had a personal vendetta against her. She believed that Mr. McMillion had purposely given the documents we put together for our case to one of the defendant’s attorneys Mr. Ortel. She also spent a ton of time digging into the defendants’ family members backgrounds even though they weren’t a part of our case and saying she could freeze bank accounts and garnish wages.

13. There were several times that Ms. Dant would call me around bedtime. During some of those calls she admitted she was drinking alcohol and sounded drunk. I remember in one call she apologized for the way she was acting and said she was trying some knew [sic] kind of Bourbon. During these calls, she was slurring her words and would repeat

herself. The conversation would go way off-topic to things that had nothing to do with our case. It was very hard to get her off the phone during these calls and sometimes they would last several hours at a time. At one point, I told her we had to keep our relationship professional because things were getting crazy.

25. Kecia Pugh experienced additional troubling behavior including, but not limited to:
- a. Dant stating three separate times that her grandmother died and she had to cancel a previously scheduled meeting with the Pughs;
 - b. Dant allowing her neighbor to intrude on conversations between Dant and the Pughs about their court case;
 - c. Dant's insertion of false and irrelevant statements about her former employer, Mr. McMillion, in a proposed fee agreement between Dant and the Pughs;
 - d. Dant's threatening to fight the Pughs to stay in their case when they mentioned the prospect of hiring a different attorney to represent them; and
 - e. Dant's soliciting them to join a Federal Court case via an email that "was too much for [Ms. Pugh] to read" and "seemed like she wanted [the Pughs] to be a part of her revenge."

26. Dant represented Alicia Culberson on charges of Cruelty to Animals in 24CR219289, and 24CR172-192 (Chatham County). During her representation, Dant appears to have impersonated a veterinary professional and presented the executive director of an animal shelter in east Tennessee with a specious unenforceable subpoena in an attempt to gain access to the subject animals held at that shelter.

27. On February 6, 2024, the Animal Rescue Corporation ("ARC"), a non-profit animal protection organization with whom the Chatham County Sheriff's Office partnered, transported the dogs to an animal shelter it maintained in Gallatin, Tennessee.

28. On April 21, 2024, Judge Samantha Cabe entered an Order for Disposition of Evidence that afforded Culberson a two-week window during which she or her designee could travel to ARC's shelter and view the dogs, after which point the dogs would be released from evidence in the criminal case and eligible for adoption.

29. On April 30, 2025, Dant arrived at ARC's shelter dressed in medical scrubs matching those worn by the shelter's staff, surgical gloves, a fanny pack, and carrying a clipboard and camera.

30. Rather than entering the shelter from the front entrance, Dant attempted to enter the shelter from the entrance at the rear of the facility. There, Dant encountered an ARC employee who directed her to ARC's executive director, Tim Woodward. Dant told Woodward that she had come to inspect ARC's shelter and presented him with a subpoena that purported to authorize Dant to search ARC's entire property, including outbuildings, storage units, and vehicles, and to take possession of two dogs and return them to North Carolina.

31. When advised by Woodward that she would not be allowed to inspect the shelter but would be allowed to see the dogs, Respondent declined and left the facility.

32. After Dant's attempt to gain access to the ARC animal shelter, the Chatham County District Attorney's office filed a Motion to Disqualify Attorney for Defendant based on the above allegations.

33. On February 4, 2025, Dant filed a 130-page Complaint in the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina in *Ka'lah Martin, et al. v. The State of North Carolina, et al.* (Case No. 1:25-CV-84).

34. In the complaint, Dant names over 60 defendants, four of which are buildings: the Alamance County Historic Courthouse, the J.B. Allen Courthouse, the Alamance County Civil Annex Building, and an apartment complex, the Lofts on Haw River. As inanimate objects, buildings lack any legal personhood or capacity to be sued.

35. In the Complaint, Dant alleges a State-wide conspiracy against herself and her clients, while making reference to alleged human trafficker Jeffrey Epstein, car manufacturer Vinfast's CEO, the Bissell Pet Foundation, and the North Carolina Board of Elections. *Id.* at 3, 6, 9, 21, 32, 33, 39, 40, 41, 44, 46, 47, 52, 69-72, 74, 100 *et seq.*

36. As Dant's Complaint continues, there is a noticeable increase in incomplete thoughts, sentence fragments, and, at times, the wholesale abandonment of the structural conventions that generally govern writing.

37. Dant's ongoing misconduct demonstrates that she "may have a mental and/or physical condition which significantly impairs her professional judgment, performance, or competence as an attorney" that poses a significant risk of harm to clients, the public and the administration of justice.

38. Except when a lawyer herself asserts disability, the procedural rules governing the State Bar's Grievance Committee and the Disciplinary Hearing Commission do not provide for any mechanism for the interim suspension of a lawyer pending a determination of whether she is disabled.

39. N.C. Gen Stat. § 84-28(f) provides that upon application by the State Bar "misconduct by an attorney admitted to practice in this State may be restrained or enjoined where the necessity for prompt action exists regardless of whether a disciplinary proceeding in the matter of the conduct is pending."

40. Prompt action is needed to protect the public, clients and the administration of justice from Dant's continuing misconduct, particularly when the available evidence as described in this Petition demonstrates that Dant's mental health status is becoming increasingly unstable over time.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Respondent and jurisdiction over the subject matter. This matter is properly before the Wake County Superior Court pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 84-28(f).

2. Prompt action, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 84-28(f) is necessary to preserve the status quo and to protect the public, clients, and the administration of justice from continuing professional misconduct by Dant.

3. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 84-28(f) provides that upon application by the State Bar "misconduct by an attorney admitted to practice in this State may be restrained or enjoined where the necessity for prompt action exists regardless of whether a disciplinary proceeding in the matter of the conduct is pending."

4. The courts of this State have inherent authority to regulate the conduct of lawyers, *See Beard v. State Bar*, 320 N.C. 126, 129 (1987); *In re Hunoval*, 294 N.C. 740 (1977); *In re Burton*, 257 N.C. 534, 542-43 (1962); *Couch v. Private Diagnostic Clinic*, 146 N.C. App. 658, 665 (2001).

5. Dant should be enjoined from engaging in the practice of law as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 84-2.1 until such a time as she can prove to the satisfaction of the court by clear, cogent, and convincing evidence via a completed mental health evaluation by a qualified mental health practitioner that she does not "have a mental and/or physical condition which significantly impairs her professional judgment, performance, or competence as an attorney," or until further order of this Court.

6. For the protection of Dant's clients and the administration of justice, Dant should be required to promptly withdraw from all pending cases in which she is counsel of record, and to cooperate with any trustee who is appointed pursuant N.C. Gen. Stat. § 84-28(j) to protect the interests of her clients while she is prohibited from practicing law. Dant should be required to provide the trustee with access to all her client files within 24 hours of the trustee's appointment and respond to any subsequent inquiries and communications from the trustee within 24 hours.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Taylor M. Dant is enjoined from the practice of law until such time as Dant can prove to the satisfaction of the court by clear, cogent, and convincing evidence via a completed mental health evaluation by a qualified mental health practitioner that she does not have "a mental

and/or physical condition which significantly impairs her professional judgment, performance, or competence as an attorney;”

2. Dant shall Dant file motions to withdraw from all her pending cases in which she is counsel of record within five days of the entry of the Court’s order and shall provide to the State Bar’s Office of Counsel file-stamped copies of all motions to withdraw within seven days of entry of the Court’s order.

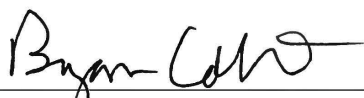
3. Dany shall cooperate with any trustee who is appointed pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 84-28(j) to protect the interests of her clients while she is prohibited from practicing law, provide the trustee with access to all her client files within 24 hours of the trustee’s appointment, and shall respond to any subsequent inquiries and communications from the trustee within 24 hours.

4. This matter is scheduled for a hearing on the Petitioner’s Petition for a Preliminary Injunction on the 21st day of April, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. the Wake County Courthouse, courtroom 10C, in Raleigh, North Carolina.

5. This Temporary Restraining Order shall remain in effect until the 21st day of April, 2025 unless extended by further orders of this Court.

4/14/2025 2:28:12 PM

This the _____ day of _____, 2025 at 2:27, p. M.
4/14/2025



Superior Court Judge, Presiding