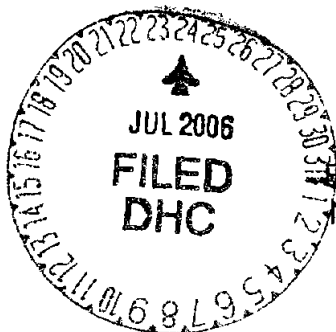


WAKE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA



BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
06 BCS 3

IN RE TENDER OF SURRENDER OF)
LICENSE OF)
JOSEPH W. MORTON)

ORDER OF DISBARMENT

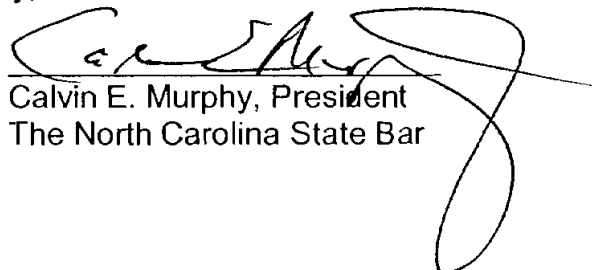
THIS MATTER was heard by the Council of the North Carolina State Bar pursuant to 27 N.C.A.C. 1B §.0117 (a) of the State Bar Discipline and Disability Rules upon the affidavit of tender of surrender of license executed by Joseph W. Morton on June 6, 2006, and filed in the offices of the State Bar on June 16, 2005.

Based on the affidavit, the Council finds that Joseph W. Morton, whose practice consisted primarily of District Court traffic cases, abandoned his law practice resulting in a substantial number of clients who paid Morton fees and costs, but for whom Morton either did not appear in court or did not pay the court costs on their tickets. This conduct constitutes grounds for discipline, under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 84-28 (b)(2), in that Morton violated Rules 1.15 through 1.15-3 and Rules 1.3, 1.4, 1.16, and 8.4(d) and (g) of the Revised Rules of Professional Conduct.

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

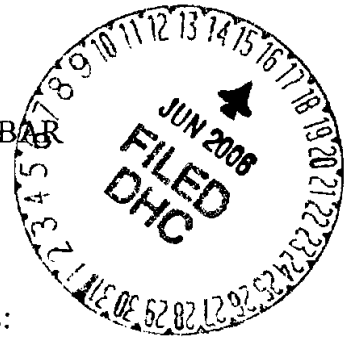
1. The tender of surrender of the license of Joseph W. Morton is hereby accepted.
2. Joseph W. Morton hereby is DISBARRED from the practice of law in North Carolina.
3. Joseph W. Morton shall comply with the provisions of 27 NCAC 1B § .0124 of the State Bar Discipline and Disability Rules and shall surrender her license and permanent membership card to the Secretary of the North Carolina State Bar along with the affidavit required by 27 NCAC 1B § .0124 of the State Bar Discipline and Disability Rules.
4. The costs of this action are taxed against Joseph W. Morton.

Done and ordered this the 21st day of July, 2006.


Calvin E. Murphy, President
The North Carolina State Bar

NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE COUNCIL
OF THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
06 BCS 3

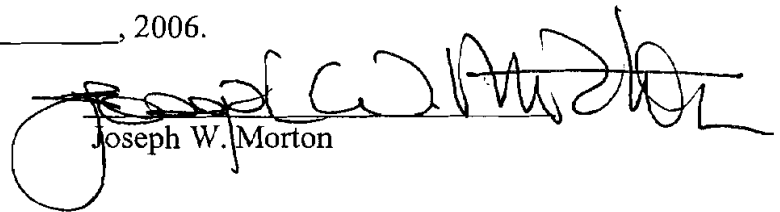


AFFIDAVIT OF SURRENDER

Joseph W. Morton, being first duly sworn, deposes and says as follows:

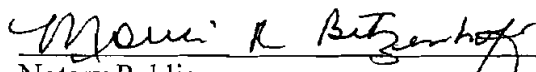
1. I desire to resign and hereby tender my license to practice law in North Carolina pursuant to the provisions of 27 N.C. Admin. Code Chapter 1, Subchapter B, Section .0117 of the N.C. State Bar Discipline & Disability Rules.
2. My resignation is freely and voluntarily rendered. It is not the result of coercion or duress. I am fully aware of the implication of submitting my resignation.
3. I am aware that there is a pending investigation by the State Bar regarding allegations that by mid-2005 I effectively abandoned my law practice (consisting mainly of representing well over one hundred clients on traffic matters in District Court) by accepting fees to protect my clients' interests but either not appearing in court on behalf of many clients or failing to pay court costs that I held in trust on behalf of many clients.
4. I acknowledge that the material facts upon which the investigation is predicated are true.
5. I am submitting my resignation because I know that if disciplinary charges were predicated upon the misconduct under investigation, I could not successfully defend against them.

This the 6th day of June, 2006.


Joseph W. Morton

Sworn to and subscribed before me

this the 6th day of June, 2006.


Notary Public
Moira R. Bitzenhofer
My commission expires: 9-30-09

