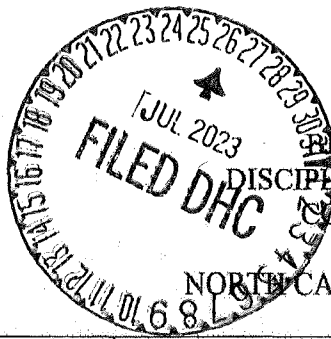


STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY



BEFORE THE
DISCIPLINARY HEARING
COMMISSION
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
23 DHC 2

IN RE: TENDER OF SURRENDER OF
LICENSE OF
KATHIE L. WILLARD
NCSB #21277

ORDER OF DISBARMENT

THIS MATTER came before the Chair of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission of the North Carolina State Bar pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B.0121(d) of the State Bar Discipline and Disability Rules upon the affidavit of surrender of license executed by Kathie L. Willard, on July 24, 2023.

Based on the affidavit, the Chair finds that Kathie L. Willard committed the violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct as set forth in the State Bar's complaint in the captioned matter. This conduct constitutes grounds for discipline pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 84-28 (b)(2).

WHEREFORE, based on Willard's affidavit of surrender and the record of this disciplinary proceeding, the Chair of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission enters the following Order:

1. The tender of surrender of the license of Kathie L. Willard is hereby accepted.
2. Kathie L. Willard is hereby DISBARRED from the practice of law in North Carolina.
3. Kathie L. Willard shall comply with the provisions of 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B.0128 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 N.C. Admin. Code 1B.0128(d) of the State Bar Discipline and Disability Rules.
4. The costs of this action are taxed against Kathie L. Willard.
5. Within 10 days of the date of this Order, Kathie L. Willard shall provide the State Bar with an address and telephone number at which clients seeking return of files can communicate with Kathie L. Willard and obtain such files, and Kathie L. Willard shall promptly return all files to her clients upon request.
6. If Kathie L. Willard fails to fully comply with 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B.0128, she shall reimburse the State Bar for all expenses incurred by the State Bar in winding

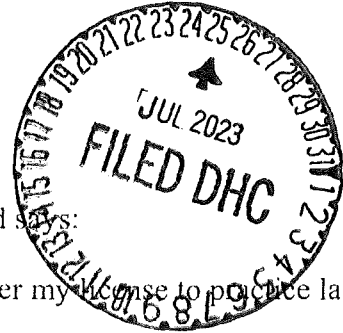
down her practice. Such expenses may include, but are not limited to, storage facility fees, rent payments, moving expenses, charges for secure disposal of client files, postage or other mailing expenses, and compensation paid to a court-appointed trustee and/or the trustee's assistant for time and travel associated with the trusteeship. The State Bar shall send an invoice for wind-down expenses to Kathie L. Willard at her last known address of record with the North Carolina State Bar. Kathie L. Willard shall not be eligible for reinstatement until she has reimbursed the State Bar for all wind-down expenses incurred.

Done and ordered this the 20th day of July, 2023.

Stephanie Davis
Stephanie Davis, Chair
Disciplinary Hearing Commission

23 DHC 2

AFFIDAVIT



Kathie Willard, first being duly sworn, does hereby depose and say:

1. I desire to resign from the North Carolina Bar and tender my license to practice law.
2. This resignation is freely and voluntarily rendered, is not the result of coercion or duress, and I am fully aware of the implications of submitting the resignation.
3. I am aware that there is presently pending a proceeding before the North Carolina Bar regarding allegations that I have been guilty of misconduct in creating an email with a backdated date during the discovery process for a lawsuit involving the board of directors of a nonprofit of which I was a board member.
4. The material facts upon which the grievance is predicated, there was a sanction issued by a court of law, are true.
5. I am not able to defend against the charges in the proceeding against me. *Please enter an order of disbarment.*

This the 24 day of July, 2023

Kathie Willard
Affiant
Kathie Willard

State of NC
County of Chatham

I, the undersigned Notary Public of the County certify Kathie Willard personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument for the purposes therein expressed. Witness my hand and Notarial stamp or seal this 24 day of July, 2023.

Heather Johnson
My Commission Expires: May 12 2028
Heather Johnson Notary Public

