

NORTH CAROLINA  
WAYNE COUNTY

FILED

FILE NO. 13 CRS 50895  
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE  
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

2020 MAR 24 P 2:45

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA	)	WAYNE CO., C.S.C.	
	)	BY ) OF	<u>ORDER</u>
VS.	)		
	)		
ADA LUCRETIA MASON	)		

**THIS CAUSE** coming on to be heard and being heard by the Honorable William W. Bland, Judge Presiding over the March 23, 2020, term of the Criminal/Civil Superior Court of Wayne County upon the motion of the Defendant to review the Court's order in suspending her license to practice law; and

**IT APPEARING TO THE COURT** that the Defendant is represented by Billy J. Strickland, II, of the Strickland Agner Pittman law firm; and

**IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT** that the District Attorney for the Ninth Prosecutorial District as well as counsel for the North Carolina State Bar were provided notice of this motion; and

**BASED UPON THE INFORMATION PRESENTED** in the motion, the court makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On October 9, 2013, Ms. Mason appeared before the Honorable Judge Arnold O. Jones II for a felony first appearance in Superior Court on charges of two counts of felony breaking and entering, felony possession of a controlled substance in a local confinement facility, and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Jones modified Ms. Mason's conditions of pretrial release, set a \$25,000 secured bond and suspended her from the practice of law.
2. On December 12, 2016, Ms. Mason appeared before the Honorable Judge Benjamin Alford in Wayne County Superior Court.

3. On that day, Ms. Mason pled guilty to a felony under North Carolina General Statute 90-95(a)(3), possession of a controlled substance.
4. Judge Alford informed Ms. Mason in open court that upon successful completion of the 90-96 judgment, the order suspending her from the practice would be rescinded and she would be able to reapply the North Carolina State Bar to be relicensed.
5. Prior to her guilty plea on December 12, 2016, Ms. Mason had never been convicted of any felony under any state or federal laws.
6. Judge Alford sentenced Ms. Mason to 90 days of supervised probation or longer as required to ensure she enter an inpatient treatment facility. Additionally, Ms. Mason was placed on electronic house arrest with a curfew from 6:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. seven days a week until she reported to an inpatient treatment facility in Greenville, South Carolina. To facilitate residential treatment, Ms. Mason's probation was modified to unsupervised probation, which allowed her leave North Carolina for treatment.
7. On December 12, 2017, Ms. Mason appeared before the undersigned in Wayne County Superior Court.
8. During the review hearing, Ms. Mason spoke to the Court and citizens in the gallery, specifically a woman in the audience who suffered from many effects of drug addiction. In a moving statement, Ms. Mason recounted her experience at the rehabilitation program in South Carolina, describing how the program had saved her life and given her new purpose.
9. As a result of Ms. Mason's successful completion of the rehabilitation treatment and fulfillment of the terms and conditions of the probation imposed upon her in the original judgment by Judge Alford, the Court dismissed all charges against her pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-96.

10. At the time of the dismissal pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-96, the undersigned expressed no concerns regarding reinstatement Ms. Mason's law license and believed that all issues related to Ms. Mason's law license would be addressed by the North Carolina State Bar.
11. On September 23, 2019, the North Carolina State Bar Office of Legal Counsel informed Ms. Mason that the position of the North Carolina State Bar is that because Ms. Mason's law license was suspended by the superior court, "any petition for reinstatement should be addressed to the court."
12. The motion by the defendant, through counsel, places the issue of the superior court suspension properly before the Wayne County Superior Court.
13. On February 26, 2020, the Disciplinary Hearing Commission (DHC) of the North Carolina State Bar filed a complaint against Ms. Mason, which complaint is now pending. The court is informed by Ms. Mason's counsel that a resolution of this complaint satisfactory to Ms. Mason and the public will be made by the DHC in due course following the entry of this order.

**BASED UPON** the foregoing **FINDINGS OF FACT**, the court makes the following:

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. This court has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter contained herein;
2. The Defendant has properly filed a motion to review the suspension of her law license with the Wayne County Superior Court which initially suspended her license;
3. All necessary parties have been provided proper notice of these proceedings; and

4. The defendant has made a proper showing for the Court to rescind its suspension of her license to practice law, specifically that she has satisfied the conditions set by Judge Alford (presiding over the Wayne County Superior Court on December 12, 2016); Judge Alford, speaking on behalf of the Wayne County Superior Court, indicated that upon satisfactory completion of the conditions which he set out, the Wayne County Superior Court would rescind the October 9, 2013, order by Wayne County Senior Resident Superior Court Judge Jones suspending the law license of Ada Lucretia Mason. It is the lawful responsibility of the undersigned to follow through on these representations of the superior court.

**THEREFORE**, based upon the foregoing **FINDINGS OF FACT** and **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**, it is hereby **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED THAT:**

1. The order entered on 9 October 2013, by the Honorable Arnold O. Jones II suspending Ada Lucretia Mason from the practice of law is and shall be hereby **RESCINDED** and this court places no further restriction on the law license of Ada Lucretia Mason, except that Ms. Mason may now resume the practice of law until the complaint filed by the Disciplinary Hearing Committee (DHC) of the North Carolina State Bar is resolved by an appropriate order from the DHC.
2. This matter is referred to the North Carolina Bar and the North Carolina Board of Law Examiners for further proceedings.

This the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2020.



The Honorable William W. Bland  
Superior Court Judge Presiding  
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, District 8-B (Wayne County)