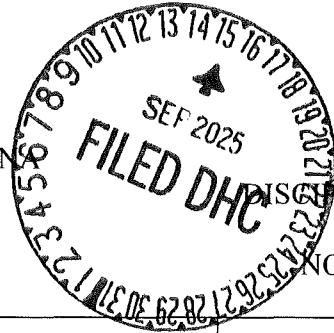


STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY



BEFORE THE
DISCIPLINARY HEARING COMMISSION
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
25 DHC 6N

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR,

Petitioner

v.

RICHARD E. BATTS, Attorney,

Respondent

CONSENT
ORDER REINSTATING
RESPONDENT TO THE
ACTIVE PRACTICE OF LAW

THIS MATTER came before the undersigned Chair of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission for consideration pursuant to Respondent's petition for reinstatement. Petitioner, the North Carolina State Bar, was represented by Jennifer A. Porter. Respondent, Richard E. Batts, appeared *pro se* in the matter.

Based upon the stipulations of the parties, the undersigned Chair finds by clear, cogent, and convincing evidence the following

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Petitioner, the North Carolina State Bar, is a state agency duly organized under the laws of North Carolina and is the proper party to bring this proceeding under the authority granted it in Chapter 84 of the General Statutes of North Carolina and the Rules and Regulations of the North Carolina State Bar (Chapter 1 of Title 27 of the North Carolina Administrative Code).

2. Respondent, Richard E. Batts ("Batts"), was licensed to practice law in North Carolina in 1981 and is, and was at all times referred to herein, an attorney at law licensed to practice in North Carolina, subject to the laws of the State of North Carolina, the Rules and Regulations of the North Carolina State Bar and the Rules of Professional Conduct.

3. The State Bar's membership database shows the following address for Respondent: 1330 Benvenue Road, Rocky Mount, NC 27804-1803.

4. Following hearings held on July 29, 2025 and August 18, 2025, the Chair of the DHC entered an order suspending Respondent for noncompliance pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B.0135.

5. Respondent's noncompliance, as found in the order, consisted of the following:

- a. Failure to produce the documents requested by the State Bar in its February 26, 2025 letter and that he had been subpoenaed to produce by subpoena issued by the Chair of the Grievance Committee on April 30, 2025; and
 - b. Failure to appear pursuant to the April 30, 2025 subpoena issued by the Chair of the Grievance Committee and make himself available to answer questions.
6. On September 9, 2025, Respondent filed a petition for reinstatement.
7. Subsequently, the parties jointly submitted this consent order, stipulating that Respondent has cured his noncompliance and is now fully compliant, as follows:
- a. Respondent produced the documents requested by the State Bar in its February 26, 2025 letter and that he had been subpoenaed to produce, by producing client file documents on July 29, 2025 and identifying specific responsive documents on August 18, 2025; and
 - b. Respondent participated in a telephone call with Deputy Counsel for the State Bar on September 10, 2025, appearing by telephone and making himself available to answer questions as he had previously been subpoenaed to do.

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact, the undersigned Chair enters the following

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

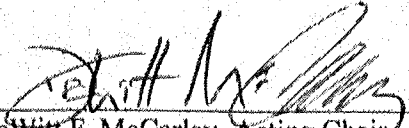
1. All parties are properly before the Chair of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission, and the Disciplinary Hearing Commission has jurisdiction over Respondent, Richard E. Batts, and over the subject matter of this proceeding.
2. Respondent has cured the noncompliance that resulted in the order for noncompliance suspension and is now fully compliant.
3. Respondent's compliance is grounds for reinstatement to the active practice of law from the suspension of his law license pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B.0135.

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the undersigned Chair hereby enters the following

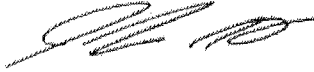
ORDER

1. Respondent, Richard E. Batts, is hereby reinstated to the active practice of law.

This the 15th day of September 2025.


DeWitt F. McCarley, Acting Chair
Disciplinary Hearing Commission

WE CONSENT:



Jennifer A. Porter
Deputy Counsel
The North Carolina State Bar
Attorney for Petitioner



Richard E. Batts
Respondent