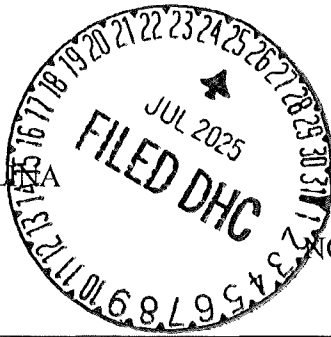


STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY



BEFORE THE COUNCIL
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
25 BCS 2

IN THE MATTER OF THE TENDER
OF SURRENDER OF LICENSE OF

JOHN H. PAINTER

ORDER OF DISBARMENT

THIS MATTER coming on to be heard and being heard by the Council of the North Carolina State Bar pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code, Chapter 1, Subchapter B, § .0121(a) of the State Bar Discipline & Disability Rules, upon tender of an affidavit of surrender of license executed by John H. Painter (hereinafter "Painter") on July 22, 2025 and filed in the offices of the North Carolina State Bar on July 22, 2025.

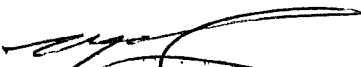
Based upon the affidavit, the Council finds that Painter improperly borrowed funds from a client, failed to timely repay the client, failed to refund a client a \$30,000.00 unearned fee, and failed to properly maintain and pay over fiduciary funds consisting of withheld income taxes for employees for various quarters from at least 1999 through 2016. Painter's conduct is in violation of the North Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct, including Rules 1.5(a), 1.8(a), and 8.4(c). Painter's conduct is grounds for discipline pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 84-28(b)(2).

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

1. The tender of surrender of license of John H. Painter is hereby accepted.
2. Painter is hereby DISBARRED from the practice of law in North Carolina.
3. Painter shall comply with the provisions of 27 N.C. Admin. Code, Chapter 1, Subchapter B, § .0128 of the State Bar Discipline & Disability Rules. Painter shall surrender his license and permanent membership card to the Secretary of the North Carolina State Bar along with the affidavit required by § .0128 of the State Bar Discipline & Disability Rules within ten (10) days after the expiration of the wind-down period provided under § .0121(e).
4. The administrative fees and costs of this action are taxed against Painter.
5. Within 10 days of the date of this Order, Painter shall provide the State Bar with an address and telephone number at which clients seeking return of files can communicate with Painter and obtain such files, and Painter shall promptly return all files to his clients upon request.

6. If Painter fails to fully comply with 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B.0128, Painter shall reimburse the State Bar for all expenses incurred by the State Bar in winding down Painter's 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 of wind-down expenses to Painter at Painter's last known address of record with the North Carolina State Bar. Painter shall not be eligible for reinstatement until he has reimbursed the State Bar for all wind-down expenses incurred.

Done and ordered this 25th day of July, 2025.



Matthew W. Smith, President
North Carolina State Bar