



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE  
DISCIPLINARY HEARING COMMISSION  
OF THE  
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR  
24 DHC 8N

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR,

Petitioner,

v.

RYAN PATRICK AMES, Attorney,

Respondent.

ORDER SUSPENDING  
RESPONDENT'S LAW LICENSE  
FOR NONCOMPLIANCE  
WITH THE GRIEVANCE PROCESS

THIS MATTER was considered by the Chair of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B .0135 following the Chair's April 12, 2024 order that Respondent show cause why his law license should not be suspended for his noncompliance with a grievance investigation. Based upon the filings and the evidence, the Chair of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission (the "DHC") finds by clear, cogent, and convincing evidence the following:

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Petitioner, the North Carolina State Bar ("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, Ryan Patrick Ames, was licensed to practice law in North Carolina in 2015 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 Ames: 21510 Old Canal St. Cornelius, NC 28031.

4. On January 4, 2024, the State Bar opened grievance file no. 24G0021 against Respondent.

5. On March 4, 2024, Ames accepted service of a Letter of Notice for file no. 24G0021.

6. Ames's response to the Letter of Notice for file no. 24G0021 was due on March 19, 2024.

7. Ames did not request an extension of time to respond to the Letter of Notice for file no. 24G0021.

8. Ames did not respond to the Letter of Notice for file no. 24G0021 on before March 19, 2024.

9. By letter dated March 25, 2024, the State Bar notified Ames that his response to the Letter of Notice in file no. 24G0021 was past due, and gave Ames until April 2, 2024, to respond to the Letter of Notice.

10. Ames did not respond to the Letter of Notice for file no. 24G0021 on April 2, 2024.

11. By letter dated April 3, 2024, the State Bar notified Ames that his response to the Letter of Notice in file no. 24G0021 was past due, and gave Ames until noon on April 5, 2024, to respond to the Letter of Notice.

12. Ames did not respond to the Letter of Notice for file no. 24G0021 by noon on April 5, 2024.

13. Grievance file no. 24G0021 remains pending.

14. On April 10, 2024, the State Bar filed a petition in the above-captioned matter seeking an order for Ames to show cause why the Chair should not enter an order suspending Ames's law license for his noncompliance with the grievance process.

15. On April 12, 2024, the Chair entered an Order to Show Cause for Grievance Noncompliance, directing Ames to show cause—no later than April 26, 2024—why the Chair should not enter an order suspending Ames's law license for his noncompliance.

16. The same day, the Deputy Clerk of the DHC served a copy of the Order to Show Cause to Ames, pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B .0135(d).

17. Ames did not make any showing or otherwise respond to the Order to Show Cause, and his time to do so has expired.

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Chair makes the following:

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. All parties are properly before the Chair of the DHC, and DHC has jurisdiction over Respondent and over the subject matter of this proceeding.

2. The State Bar has shown by clear, cogent, and convincing evidence that Ames is noncompliant with the investigation of grievance file no. 24G0021 as defined in 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B .0135(a).

3. Ames has not shown that there is good cause for his noncompliance with the grievance process.

4. Ames's noncompliance is grounds for the suspension of his law license pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B .0134(e)(3) and (g).

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Chair of the DHC enters the following:

ORDER

5. Respondent, Ryan Patrick Ames, is hereby suspended from the practice of law, effective 30 days after this Order is served upon him.

6. Ames shall comply with all the wind-down provision of 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B .0128, as provided by 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B .0135(h).

7. Any petition by Ames to be reinstated to the practice of law shall be governed by 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B .0135(i).

This the 1st day of May, 2024

Stephanie N. Davis  
Stephanie N. Davis, Chair  
Disciplinary Hearing Commission