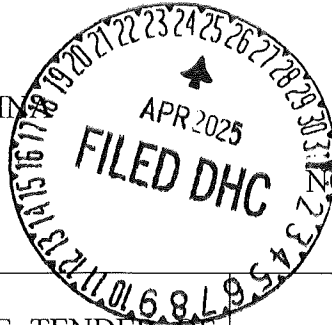


STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY



BEFORE THE COUNCIL  
OF THE  
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR  
25 BCS 1

IN THE MATTER OF THE TENDER OF  
SURRENDER OF LICENSE OF

James C. Worthington, Sr.

ORDER OF DISBARMENT

THIS MATTER was heard by the Council of the North Carolina State Bar pursuant to 27 N.C. Admin. Code Chapter 1, Subchapter B, Section .0121(a) upon the tender of an affidavit of surrender of license executed by James C. Worthington, Sr. on February 24, 2025, and filed with the North Carolina State Bar on March 3, 2025.

Based upon the affidavit, the Council finds that Worthington pleaded guilty to, and was convicted of, one count of wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343 in *United States of America v. James Carol Worthington*, Case No. 3:24-CR-104-CRS-01, in the United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky, Louisville Division. While serving in a fiduciary capacity for six separate estates, Worthington engaged in fraud by making numerous unauthorized withdrawals from their accounts, totaling \$585,028.91. The U.S. District Court accepted Worthington's guilty plea on October 16, 2024. The Judgment is attached as Exhibit A. Worthington committed a criminal act that reflects adversely on his honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer, in violation of Rule 8.4(b) of the North Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct and was convicted of a criminal offense showing professional unfitness. This conduct constitutes grounds for discipline under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 84-28(b)(1) and (b)(2).


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

1. The tender of surrender of the license of James Carol Worthington, Sr., North Carolina State Bar Number 19344, is hereby accepted.
2. Worthington is hereby DISBARRED from the practice of law in North Carolina.
3. Worthington shall comply with the provisions of 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B.0128 and shall surrender his 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), within ten (10) days of the entry of this order.
4. The administrative fees and costs of this action are taxed against Worthington.
5. If Worthington fails to fully comply with 27 N.C. Admin. Code 1B .0128, he shall reimburse the State Bar for all expenses incurred in winding down his law practice. Such

*Order of Disbarment, James C. Worthington, Sr.*  
Page 1 of 2

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 Worthington at his last known address of record with the North Carolina State Bar. Worthington shall not be eligible for reinstatement until he has reimbursed the State Bar for all wind-down expenses incurred.

Done and ordered this 25<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025.



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Matthew W. Smith, President  
The North Carolina State Bar

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY



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

**AFFIDAVIT OF SURRENDER OF THE LAW LICENSE OF JAMES C.  
WORTHINGTON, SR.**

I, JAMES C. WORTHINGTON, being first duly sworn, say:

1. I desire to resign and hereby tender my license to practice law in North Carolina pursuant to the provisions of Section .0121 of the North Carolina State Bar Discipline and Disability Rules, 27 N.C. Admin. Code Chapter 1, Subchapter B, Section .0121.

2. My resignation is freely and voluntarily rendered. It is not the result of coercion or duress. I am fully aware of the implications of submitting my resignation and have had the opportunity to discuss the evidence against me and possible defenses with counsel.

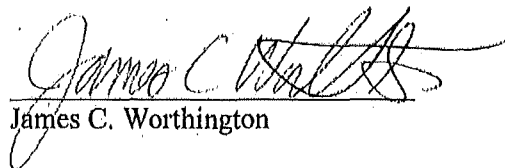
3. On October 15, 2024, I pleaded guilty in the United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky, Case No. 3:24-CR-104-CRS-01, to one count of wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343. On October 16, 2024, District Court Judge Charles R. Simpson III accepted my guilty plea and adjudged me guilty of the offense.

4. I am aware that the State Bar is presently investigating my criminal conduct. I acknowledge that the material facts upon which the grievance investigation is predicated are true.

5. I am submitting my resignation because I know that if disciplinary charges were brought based on the criminal conduct under investigation, I could not successfully defend against them.

6. I understand that the North Carolina State Bar Council will hold a hearing on the acceptance of my license surrender at its regularly scheduled meeting on Friday, April 25, 2025, at the State Bar building, 217 East Edenton Street, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Respectfully submitted, this the 24<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025.

  
James C. Worthington

I, MELANIE MILLER, Notary Public of the County of Jefferson, Commonwealth of Kentucky, certify that James C. Worthington personally appeared before me this day, was sworn, attested that the foregoing Affidavit is true and accurate of his own personal knowledge, and executed the foregoing Affidavit.

This the 24<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025.



Melanie Miller  
Notary Public Signature

MELANIE MILLER  
Print Name

My commission expires: July 3, 2026