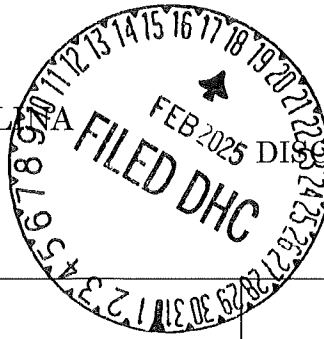


STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY



BEFORE THE
DISCIPLINARY HEARING COMMISSION
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR
21 DHC 5R

IN THE MATTER OF:

Petition for Reinstatement of
Lonnie P. Merritt, Attorney

ORDER OF
REINSTATEMENT

This matter is before the secretary of the North Carolina State Bar pursuant to a Petition for Reinstatement filed by Lonnie P. Merritt on 6 January 2025.

Based upon the petition and a review of the records of the North Carolina State Bar, the Secretary makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On 21 September 2021 a hearing panel of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission (DHC) entered an Order of Discipline in 21 DHC 5 suspending Merritt from the practice of law for one year.
2. Merritt filed Notice of Appeal to the North Carolina Court of Appeals (No. COA22-191). Merritt's law license was not suspended while the appeal was pending.
3. In September 2022, the Court of Appeals affirmed the Order of Discipline.
4. In October 2022, Merritt filed a Notice of Appeal and Petition for Discretionary Review in the Supreme Court of North Carolina (No. 305P22). Merritt's law license was not suspended while the matter was pending before the Supreme Court.
5. In December 2023 the Supreme Court denied Merritt's appeal and dismissed his petition for review.
6. After the appeals process was complete, the one year suspension of Merritt's law license began on 7 February 2024.
7. On 6 January 2025, Merritt filed a Petition for Reinstatement showing that he has substantially satisfied the conditions for reinstatement set forth in the Order of Discipline.
8. Counsel for the North Carolina State Bar did not file an objection to Merritt's petition.

9. Merritt was eligible for reinstatement on 7 February 2025.

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

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The petitioner, Lonnie P. Merritt, has satisfied the conditions necessary for reinstatement set forth in the Order of Discipline.

2. The petitioner has satisfied the requirements in 27 NCAC 1B, § .0129(b) and the provisions of the 21 September 2021 Order of Discipline.

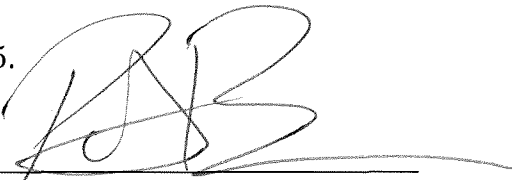
3. The petitioner is entitled to reinstatement of his license to practice law in this jurisdiction.

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law the Secretary enters the following:

ORDER OF REINSTATEMENT

Lonnie P. Merritt is hereby reinstated to the active practice of law in North Carolina as of the date of this order.

This the 12th day of February, 2025.



Peter Bolac, Secretary
North Carolina State Bar