



**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COURT OF APPEALS**

Date of Admission: April 1, 1994

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Disciplinary Docket No. 2016-D396

On August 10, 2023, the D.C. Court of Appeals issued an order adopting the Board's sanction recommendation and suspending Mr. Blackwell for six-months, with all but 60-days of the suspension stayed in favor of three years of probation – subject to the conditions recommended by the Board. He was disciplined because he knowingly violated court orders that required him to pay child support, and he made a false statement to Disciplinary Counsel during its investigation. Mr. Blackwell remains suspended because he has not filed an affidavit that complies with the requirements of D.C. Bar R. XI, § 14(g).

Shortly after the Court suspended Mr. Blackwell, the Board sent him an order setting forth the terms of his probation, which he signed on September 11, 2023. *See* Attachment A. The order stated:

no later than thirty days after entry of the Court's order, Respondent shall begin to make monthly payments pursuant to a schedule and in an amount sufficient to fully satisfy his child support obligations (including any current arrearage) by the end of the probationary period, without prejudice to Respondent seeking a modification of his child support obligations, in which case he must comply with the modified order by the completion of the probationary period.

In re Blackwell, 20-BD-019, Board Order (September 11, 2023).

In addition, Mr. Blackwell was ordered to provide Disciplinary Counsel with “a statement from the Virginia Department of Child Support Enforcement showing his compliance with the payment schedule, or evidence showing that he has made the payments required under the schedule” every three months.

For the past nine months, Mr. Blackwell has continued to engage in the same misconduct for which he was disciplined – refusing to comply with court orders. He now refuses to comply with his responsibilities under the D.C. Court of Appeals' August 10, 2023, order, and the Board's September 11, 2023, conditions of probation agreement. Mr. Blackwell has not provided Disciplinary Counsel with any statements from the VDCSE showing compliance with a payment schedule. Mr. Blackwell has not provided Disciplinary Counsel with any evidence that he sought modification of his child support obligations after the August 10, 2023,

suspension order. The VDCSE records show that Mr. Blackwell has not made any payments to the VDCSE since the August 10, 2023, suspension order. To Disciplinary Counsel's knowledge, Respondent also has not made any payments to any other state child support authority.

Due to Mr. Blackwell's failure to comply with the conditions of probation, Disciplinary Counsel asks that his probation be revoked, that he be required to serve the full six-month suspension – which for reinstatement purposes should not begin to run until he files a compliant D.C. Bar R. XI, § 14(g) affidavit – and that he be required to fully satisfy his child support obligations prior to reinstatement. *See Attachment A.*

Mr. Blackwell has demonstrated a complete disregard for the authority of this Court and the disciplinary system. Despite a carefully crafted sanction that was intended to allow Mr. Blackwell the opportunity to continue practicing law after a short suspension so that he could earn money as an attorney and make his child support payments, he has made no attempt to comply. It is clear he has no intent to change his longstanding pattern of ignoring his court ordered child support obligations. Mr. Blackwell cannot be allowed to continue engaging in this misconduct while retaining the privilege of membership in the District of Columbia Bar.

Disciplinary Counsel notified Mr. Blackwell of its intent to file this motion and requested his position. Mr. Blackwell stated, “My position is that your motion is full of falsity, exaggeration and overstatements.”

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Jelani C. Lowery
Assistant Disciplinary Counsel

Office of Disciplinary Counsel
515 Fifth Street, N.W.
Building A, Suite 117
Washington, D.C. 20002
(202) 638-1501

VERIFICATION

I do affirm that I verily believe the facts stated in Disciplinary Counsel's Motion to Revoke Respondent's Probation to be true.

/s/
Jelani C. Lowery
Assistant Disciplinary Counsel

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on June 24, 2024, I caused the foregoing to be served electronically to James T. Phalen, Executive Attorney, Board on Professional Responsibility at CaseManager@dcbpr.org, and to Respondent Kenneth L. Blackwell at kennethlblackwell@yahoo.com.

/s/

Jelani C. Lowery
Assistant Disciplinary Counsel

Attachment A



ISSUED

Sep 11 2023 3:37pm

Board on Professional
Responsibility

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS
BOARD ON PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

In the Matter of:

KENNETH L. BLACKWELL,

Respondent.

An Active Member of the Bar of the
District of Columbia Court of Appeals
(Bar Registration No. 441413)

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: D.C. App. No. 22-BG-0565
: Board Docket No. 20-BD-019
: Disciplinary Docket No. 2016-D396
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ORDER

On August 10, 2023, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals ordered Respondent suspended for six months, with all but sixty days stayed, in favor of three years of probation, with conditions. *In re Kenneth L. Blackwell*, App. No. 22-BG-0565 (D.C. August 10, 2023).

Based upon the foregoing, pursuant to Board Rule 18.1(a), and in order to implement the Court's order of probation, it is hereby

ORDERED that after Respondent serves his sixty-day suspension, he is placed on one year of unsupervised probation, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Respondent shall not violate any Rules of Professional Conduct;
- (2) no later than thirty days after entry of the Court's order, Respondent shall begin to make monthly payments pursuant to a schedule and in an amount sufficient to fully satisfy his child support obligations (including any current arrearage) by the end of the probationary period, without prejudice to Respondent seeking a modification of his child support obligations, in which case he must comply with the modified order by the completion of the probationary period; and
- (3) that Respondent shall provide Disciplinary Counsel with the payment schedule, and every three months shall provide Disciplinary Counsel with a statement from the Virginia

Department of Child Support Enforcement showing his compliance with the payment schedule, or evidence showing that he has made the payments required under the schedule; and it is further

ORDERED that if Respondent has not satisfied his child support obligations by the end of the probation, he will be required to serve the stayed portion of the suspension and will be required to fully satisfy his child support obligations prior to reinstatement; and it is further

ORDERED that Respondent shall certify below, that he accepts the conditions of probation; and it is further

ORDERED that if Respondent fails to accept the terms of the probation by **September 11, 2023**, the Board will recommend that the Court lift the stayed portion of his suspension. *See* Board Rule 18.1(a)

BOARD ON PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

By: Bernadette C. Sargeant
Bernadette C. Sargeant
Chair

Dated: Aug 11, 2023

I have reviewed this Probation Order, and I understand and accept its terms and conditions. I have also reviewed and understand the probation revocation procedures set forth in Board Rule 18.3.

/s/Kenneth L. Blackwell
Respondent

Dated: 9/10/23

/s/ Mcmillan Shorter
Witness

Dated: 9/10/23

cc:

Kenneth L Blackwell, Esquire
kennethlblackwell@yahoo.com

Jelani C Lowery, Esquire
Assistant Disciplinary Counsel
loweryj@dcodc.org