

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT  
COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT  
PANEL B

IN RE: THOMAS C. MORRIS, III  
Arkansas Bar ID #84110  
CPC Docket No. 2017-034

FINDINGS AND ORDER

The formal charges of misconduct against Thomas C. Morris, III, a former attorney (by reason of Interim Suspension) practicing primarily in Bella Vista, Arkansas are based upon a collection of information received by the Office of Professional Conduct.

On April 21, 2017, Panel B of the Committee on Professional Conduct issued an Order of Interim Suspension on Morris based on the allegation that Morris "presently poses a substantial threat of serious harm to the public or to his client(s)." On April 21, 2017, the Office of Professional Conduct sent Morris a letter by certified mail informing him of the Interim Suspension and the applicable sections of the Procedures Regulating Professional Conduct of Attorneys At Law. On April 26, 2017, OPC received confirmation back from the United States Postal Service that Morris signed for notification of his Interim Suspension. The Order of Interim Suspension remained in place for all times relevant in this complaint.

On September 11, 2017, Morris sent a demand letter to Laura Logan on behalf of Morris' client, Will Bettis. The letter states that Morris represents Bettis and invites Logan to communicate with Morris regarding the matter.

Section 22 of the Procedures applies to Morris as he is on Interim Suspension pursuant to Section 22.A. Section 22.B states "A former attorney shall not occupy, share, or use office space where the practice of law is conducted." Section 22. C states "A former attorney shall not engage in the practice of law, nor may a former attorney in any employment in, or related to, the practice

of law...” Section 22.G states “A former attorney shall have no contact with clients or prospective clients of any attorney or law firm in person, by telephone, in writing, by e-mail, or by any other form of communication, written, electronic, or in person.” Section 22.M states “No attorney, firm, professional corporation, or other business entity shall practice law or provide legal services under any name that includes the name of any former attorney, while that attorney is a former attorney... This prohibition applies, without limitation, to any name used on any letterhead, written communication, signage, advertising, e-mail, website, or similar means of placing a firm’s name before the public, the courts, or other attorneys.”

As of November 8, 2017, the website of Tom Morris & Associates remains active at [www.bellavistalegal.com](http://www.bellavistalegal.com). The attorney profile of Morris remains featured on the website.

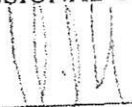
Upon consideration of the formal complaint and attached exhibit materials, the response to it, and other matters before it, and the Arkansas Rules of Professional Conduct, Panel B of the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct finds:

1. Thomas Morris’ conduct violated Arkansas Rule 3.4(c), to wit as Morris violated Section 22 of the Procedures Regulating Attorneys at Law when (a) he sent a letter on behalf of his client, Will Bettis, on September 11, 2017, to Laura Logan after Morris was placed on Interim Suspension on April 21, 2017; (b) he used letterhead of Tom Morris & Associates that appears on the letter sent by Morris on September 11, 2017, after Morris was placed on Interim Suspension on April 21, 2017; (c) the website of Tom Morris & Associates remained active as of November 8, 2017, after Morris was placed on Interim Suspension on April 21, 2017; and (d) the website of Tom Morris & Associates remained active and contained the attorney profile of Morris, after Morris was placed on Interim Suspension on April 21, 2017.

2. Thomas Morris' conduct violated Arkansas Rule 8.4(d) when Morris continued to practice law after being placed on Interim Suspension on April 21, 2017.

WHEREFORE, it is the decision and order of the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct, acting through its authorized Panel B, that Thomas C. Morris, III, Arkansas Bar ID#84110 be, and hereby is REPRIMANDED for his conduct in this matter.

ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT COMMITTEE  
ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT - PANEL B

  
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Michael Mullally, Chair, Panel B

Date

2/27/2018