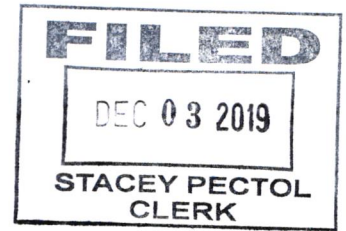


BEFORE THE ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT
COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT
PANEL B



IN RE: SUMMER MICHELLE RHODEN
Arkansas Bar ID #2010208
CPC Docket No. 2019-010

FINDINGS AND ORDER

The formal charges of misconduct against Summer Michelle Rhoden an Arkansas licensed attorney practicing primarily in Memphis, Tennessee, upon which this Findings and Order is based arose from a self-report by Rhoden.

On or about June 20, 2016, a man was fatally shot by Sebastian Vaughn (Rhoden's son, then aged 16) in Memphis, Tennessee. Rhoden drove Vaughn around, was aware of the location of the murder weapon, and brought Vaughn home to sleep after he took some Xanax. At no point did Rhoden turn her son, Vaughn, in to police.

On June 21, 2016, Rhoden spoke with Memphis Police and also gave a written statement. On June 22, 2017, Rhoden was indicted in the Criminal Court of Shelby County, Tennessee for one count of Accessory After the Fact pursuant to a violation of Tennessee Code Annotated ("T.C.A.") §39-11-411. Information relating to Rhoden's arrest made the news in Memphis.

On or about March 8, 2019, Rhoden entered a guilty plea to the amended offense of Criminal Attempt T.C.A. §39-12-101. Rhoden received a sentence of 11 months and 29 days in the Shelby County Jail with 11 months and 28 days being on probation under the supervision of The Justice Network, Inc. Rhoden was credited with 1 day in jail.

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. Summer Rhoden's conduct violated Arkansas Rule 8.4(b) as Rhoden entered a guilty plea on March 8, 2019 and received a conviction of Criminal Attempt in Shelby County, Tennessee. Arkansas Rule 8.4(b) requires that a lawyer shall not commit a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects.

2. Summer Rhoden's conduct violated Arkansas Rule 8.4(d) as Rhoden's failure to turn her son, Sebastian Vaughn, in to police after Rhoden was aware Vaughn committed a homicide was prejudicial to the administration of justice. Arkansas Rule 8.4(d) requires that a lawyer shall not engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice.

WHEREFORE, it is the decision and order of the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct, acting through its authorized Panel B, that Summer Rhoden, Arkansas Bar ID# 2010208 be, and hereby is, **REPRIMANDED** and assessed \$50.00 costs. The costs assessed, totaling \$50.00, herein shall be payable by cashier's check or money order payable to the "Clerk, Arkansas Supreme Court" delivered to the Office of Professional Conduct within thirty (30) days of the date this Findings and Order is filed of record with the Clerk of the Arkansas Supreme Court. In assessing a sanction, the attorney's prior disciplinary record was a factor.

ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT COMMITTEE
ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT - PANEL B



Steve Crane, Chair, Panel B

Date: 10-23-19