

## STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

At a Regular Term of the Supreme Court of Appeals continued and held at Charleston, Kanawha County, on the 24th day of April, 1997, the following order was made and entered:

Lawyer Disciplinary Board, Complainant

vs.) No. 23276

Robert E. Wright, a member of The West  
Virginia State Bar, Respondent

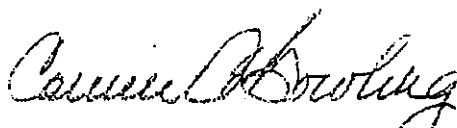
On a former day, to-wit, April 15, 1997, came the complainant, the Lawyer Disciplinary Board, by Sherri D. Goodman, Chief Lawyer Disciplinary Counsel, pursuant to Rule 3.23(b), Rules of Lawyer Disciplinary Procedure, seeking the administrative suspension of the license to practice law in the State of West Virginia of the respondent, Robert E. Wright, a member of The West Virginia State Bar, for the reasons stated therein.

Upon consideration whereof, the Court doth hereby order the license to practice law in the State of West Virginia of the respondent, Robert E. Wright, administratively suspended, effective immediately. It is further considered and ordered that all pending proceedings be held in abeyance pursuant to Rule 3.24, Rules of Lawyer Disciplinary Procedure.

Service of an attested copy of this order upon all parties shall constitute sufficient notice of the contents.

A True Copy

Attest:

  
Interim Clerk, Supreme Court of Appeals

**FILE COPY****DO NOT REMOVE  
FROM FILE****BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF THE  
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA****LAWYER DISCIPLINARY BOARD,****Complainant,****v.****ROBERT E. WRIGHT,****Respondent.****FILED**

APR 15 1997

ANCIL G. RAMEY, CLERK  
SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS  
Supreme Court of West Virginia

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**COMPLAINT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SUSPENSION**

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Pursuant to Rule 3.23(b) of the Rules of Lawyer Disciplinary Procedure, the Lawyer Disciplinary Board moves for the administrative suspension for disability of the law license of attorney Robert E. Wright based upon his contention that he is "suffering from a disability by reason of mental or physical infirmity or illness . . . which makes it impossible for the lawyer to adequately defend the charges against [him]." The basis for this complaint follows:

1. A Statement of Charges was issued on January 25, 1996 against Mr. Wright, I.D. No. 95-02-431, Supreme Court No. 23276. An Answer to the Statement of Charges was filed March 6, 1996.

2. A status conference was conducted on March 14, 1996. A pre-trial hearing conference was held on August 5, 1996.

3. Although the parties attempted to enter into stipulations as to "Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Recommendations Concerning Discipline", it became evident during these efforts that Respondent was unable to assist his attorney or fully understand the discussions. (See Letter of John B. Carrico to David J. Romano dated October 22, 1996, attached as Exhibit A.)

4. Mr. Wright's attorney arranged for him to be evaluated by a neurologist, who made a tentative diagnosis of dementia. (A copy of a letter from John B. Carrico to David J. Romano dated November 7, 1996 is attached as Exhibit B. A copy of Dr. Michael A. Moorehead's report dated December 3, 1996 is attached as Exhibit C.)

5. Thereafter, and based upon this evaluation, Respondent invoked the relief provided under Rule 3.23(b) of the Rules of Lawyer Disciplinary Procedure which provide as follows:

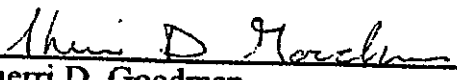
**Rule 3.23. Complaint alleging disability.**

(b) If, upon due consideration of the matter, the Court concludes that the lawyer is disabled from continuing to practice law, it shall enter an order imposing an administrative suspension on the lawyer on the ground of such disability until further order of the Court and any pending disciplinary proceedings against the lawyer shall be held in abeyance. The Court may provide for such notice to the lawyer of the proceedings as is deemed proper and advisable and may appoint counsel to represent the lawyer if he or she is without adequate representation.

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The Lawyer Disciplinary Board therefore requests that the Court place Respondent on administrative suspension from the practice of law until a determination is made pursuant to this Rule that the lawyer is capable of practicing law again. It is further requested that Supreme Court No. 23276 be held in abeyance pending reinstatement of Respondent's law license pursuant to Rule 3.24 of the Rules of Lawyer Disciplinary Procedure.

LAWYER DISCIPLINARY BOARD  
By Counsel

  
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