

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

A14-0176

In re Petition for Disciplinary Action against  
Thomas L. Owens, a Minnesota Attorney,  
Registration No. 121459.

ORDER

The Director of the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility filed a petition for disciplinary action alleging that respondent Thomas L. Owens committed professional misconduct warranting public discipline, namely, neglecting a client matter, failing to communicate with a client, and failing to respond to telephone calls from a former client's attorney, in violation of Minn. R. Prof. Conduct 1.3, 1.4, and 1.16(d).

Respondent waives his procedural rights under Rule 14, Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility (RLPR), unconditionally admits the allegations in the petition, except as stated in the stipulation for discipline, which includes additional facts to which the parties agree, and, with the Director, recommends that the appropriate discipline is a public reprimand and 2 years of supervised probation.

The court has independently reviewed the file and approves the recommended disposition.

Based upon all the files, records, and proceedings herein,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. Respondent Thomas L. Owens is publicly reprimanded;
2. Respondent shall pay \$900 in costs pursuant to Rule 24, RLPR; and
3. Respondent shall be subject to probation for 2 years, subject to the

following conditions:

a. Respondent shall cooperate fully with the Director's Office in its efforts to monitor compliance with this probation. Respondent shall promptly respond to the Director's correspondence by its due date. Respondent shall provide the Director with a current mailing address and shall immediately notify the Director of any change of address. Respondent shall cooperate with the Director's investigation of any allegations of unprofessional conduct that may come to the Director's attention. Upon the Director's request, respondent shall provide authorization for release of information and documentation to verify respondent's compliance with the terms of this probation.

b. Respondent shall abide by the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct.

c. Respondent shall be supervised by a licensed Minnesota attorney, appointed by the Director, to monitor compliance with the terms of this probation. Within 2 weeks from the date of the filing of this order, respondent shall provide the Director with the names of four attorneys who have agreed to be nominated as respondent's supervisor. If, after diligent effort, respondent is unable to locate a supervisor acceptable to the Director, the Director shall seek to appoint a supervisor. Until a supervisor has signed a consent to supervise, respondent shall, on the first day of each month, provide the Director with an inventory of client files as described in paragraph d below. Respondent shall make active client files available to the Director upon request.

d. Respondent shall cooperate fully with the supervisor's efforts to monitor compliance with this probation. Respondent shall contact the supervisor and schedule a minimum of one in-person meeting per calendar quarter. Respondent shall submit to the supervisor an inventory of all active client files by the first day of each month during the probation. With

