#### VIRGINIA:

# BEFORE THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD IN THE MATTER OF VSB DOCKET NO. 21-000-120967 JACOB LEON PARROTT

## AGREED DISPOSITION MEMORANDUM ORDER REVOCATION

On November 19, 2020 this matter was heard by the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board ("Board") upon the joint request of the parties for the Board to accept the Agreed Disposition signed by the parties and offered to the Board as provided by Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13-6.H of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia. The panel consisted of Yvonne S. Gibney (Chair), Robin J. Kegley, Donita M. King, Sandra M. Rohrstaff and Reba H. Davis (Lay Member). The Virginia State Bar was represented by M. Brent Saunders, Senior Assistant Bar Counsel. Respondent Jacob Leon Parrott ("Respondent") was present and was not represented by counsel. The Chair polled the members of the Board as to whether any of them were aware of any personal or financial interest or bias which would preclude any of them from fairly hearing the matter to which each member responded in the negative. Court Reporter Beverly Lukowksy, Chandler and Halasz, P.O. Box 9349, Richmond, Virginia 23227, telephone (804) 730-1222, after being duly sworn, reported the hearing and transcribed the proceedings.

WHEREFORE, upon consideration of the Agreed Disposition, Rule to Show Cause and Order of Summary Suspension and Notice of Hearing, Respondent's Disciplinary Record, the arguments of the parties, and after due deliberation,

It is **ORDERED** that the Disciplinary Board accepts the Agreed Disposition for the Revocation of Respondent's license, as set forth in the Agreed Disposition, which is attached and incorporated in this Memorandum Order.

It is further **ORDERED** that the sanction is effective November 19, 2020.

## It is further ORDERED that:

The Respondent must comply with the requirements of Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13-29 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia. The Respondent shall forthwith give notice by certified mail of the Revocation of his license to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia, to all clients for whom he is currently handling matters and to all opposing attorneys and presiding Judges in pending litigation. The Respondent shall also make appropriate arrangements for the disposition of matters then in his care in conformity with the wishes of his clients. The Respondent shall give such notice within 14 days of the effective date of the Revocation, and make such arrangements as are required herein within 45 days of the effective date of the Revocation. The Respondent shall also furnish proof to the Bar within 60 days of the effective day of the Revocation that such notices have been timely given and such arrangements made for the disposition of matters.

It is further ORDERED that if the Respondent is not handling any client matters on the effective date of the Revocation, he shall submit an affidavit to that effect within 60 days of the effective date of the Revocation to the Clerk of the Disciplinary System at the Virginia State Bar. All issues concerning the adequacy of the notice and arrangements required by Paragraph 13-29 shall be determined by the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board, which may impose a sanction of Revocation or additional Suspension for failure to comply with the requirements of this subparagraph.

The Clerk of the Disciplinary System shall assess costs pursuant to Part Six, Section IV, Paragraph 13-9.E. of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia.

It is further ORDERED that an attested copy of this Order be mailed to the Respondent by

certified mail, return receipt requested, regular, and electronic mail at his last address of record with the Virginia State Bar at Law Office of J. Leon Parrott, 360 McKendree Lane, Myrtle Beach, SC 29579, and a copy by electronic mail to M. Brent Saunders, Senior Assistant Bar Counsel, Virginia State Bar, Suite 700, 1111 E. Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

Entered this 19th day of November 2020

VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Yvonne S. Gibney Digitally signed by Yvonne S. Gibney Date: 2020.11.19 11:40:27 -05'00'

Yvonne S. Gibney Chair VIRGINIA:



# BEFORE THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR DISCIPLINARY BOARD

# IN THE MATTER OF JACOB LEON PARROTT

VSB Docket No. 21-000-120967

# AGREED DISPOSITION FOR IMPOSITION OF RECIPROCAL DISCIPLINE

Pursuant to Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-6(H) and 13-24 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Virginia State Bar, by M. Brent Saunders, Senior Assistant Bar Counsel, and Jacob Leon Parrott, Respondent, *pro se*, hereby enter into the following Agreed Disposition.

### 1. STIPULATIONS OF FACT

 Respondent was licensed to practice law in the State of South Carolina in 1984 and the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2012.

2. Respondent and the Office of Disciplinary Counsel to the Supreme Court of South Carolina entered into an Agreement for Discipline by Consent (Matter Number 18-DE-L-0679) ("Agreement"). In the Agreement, Respondent, *inter alia*: a) consented to the imposition of any sanction set forth in the South Carolina Rules for Lawyer Disciplinary Enforcement and South Carolina Appellate Court Rules, based on his conviction of indecent exposure in violation of S.C. Code Ann. § 16-15-130; and b) admitted the conduct underlying that conviction violated South Carolina Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4(b).

3. By Opinion filed on August 12, 2020, the Supreme Court of South Carolina accepted the Agreement and disbarred Respondent from the practice of law in South Carolina retroactive to June 5, 2018, the date of his arrest (Opinion No. 27989).

4. True copies of the Agreement and Opinion No. 27989 are attached hereto.

5. Respondent agrees that the same discipline imposed in South Carolina should be imposed by the Disciplinary Board and waives any rights under Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13-24 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia.

# II. PROPOSED DISPOSITION

Accordingly, Senior Assistant Bar Counsel and Respondent hereby tender to the Board for its approval an agreed disposition for the revocation of Respondent's license to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia, effective on the date an order approving this agreed disposition is issued.

If the Agreed Disposition is approved, the Clerk of the Disciplinary System shall assess an administrative fee.

THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR

By

M. Brent Saunders Senior Assistant Bar Counsel

Jacob Leon Parrott Respondent

# THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA In The Supreme Court

In the Matter of Jacob Leon Parrott, Respondent.

Appellate Case No. 2020-000892

Opinion No. 27989 Submitted June 19, 2020 – Filed August 12, 2020

## DISBARRED

John S. Nichols, Disciplinary Counsel, and C. Tex Davis, Jr., Senior Disciplinary Counsel, both of Columbia, for the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

Jacob Leon Parrott, of Myrtle Beach, pro se.

**PER CURIAM:** In this attorney disciplinary matter, Respondent and the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) have entered into an Agreement for Discipline by Consent (the Agreement) pursuant to Rule 21, RLDE, Rule 413, SCACR. In the Agreement, Respondent admits misconduct and consents to the imposition of any sanction set forth in Rule 7(b), RLDE, Rule 413, SCACR. We accept the Agreement and disbar Respondent from the practice of law in this state, retroactive to June 5, 2018, the date of his arrest. The facts, as set forth in the Agreement, are as follows.

# Facts

On June 5, 2018, Respondent was arrested and charged with indecent exposure, in violation of S.C. Code Ann. § 16-15-130, after he was observed exposing his genitals and masturbating. Respondent self-reported the arrest to ODC on June 19, 2018. On December 9, 2019, Respondent entered a plea pursuant to *North* 

Carolina v. Alford, 400 U.S. 25 (1970), and was sentenced to three years' imprisonment, suspended to twelve months' probation and payment of \$168.75 in court costs.

Respondent's previous disciplinary history includes two matters involving similar behavior. In 1997, Respondent received a four-month suspension citing the equivalent of Rules 8.4(b) (committing a criminal act that reflects adversely on an attorney's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer in other respects) and 8.4(c) (committing a criminal act involving moral turpitude), RPC, Rule 407, SCACR. *In re Parrott*, 325 S.C. 162, 480 S.E.2d 722 (1997). This four-month suspension followed Respondent's entry of an *Alford* plea to a charge of simple assault and battery he received after pulling down a woman's bathing suit while she was sunbathing at Surfside Beach in May 1994. *Id.* at 163, 480 S.E.2d at 723 (noting Respondent tried to pull off another woman's bikini bottom while she was sunbathing at North Myrtle Beach in October 1989, but was not prosecuted for this offense; and Respondent had no prior connection with either woman, covered his face during both incidents, and retreated when the women "put up a struggle").

In 2017, the Court suspended Respondent, then fifty-six years old, for nine months after he was arrested and charged with voyeurism for using a cell phone to take photos up a woman's skirt in a grocery store and failed to inform ODC of his arrest within the required fifteen-day period. *In re Parrott*, 421 S.C. 105, 107, 804 S.E.2d 852, 853 (2017). In its 2017 order, the Court found Respondent's conduct violated Rules 8.3(a) (requiring an attorney to provide notice to ODC in writing within fifteen days of being arrested or charged by way of indictment, information, or complaint with a serious crime), and 8.4(b) (committing a criminal act that reflects adversely on a lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer in other respects), RPC, Rule 407, SCACR. *In re Parrott*, 421 S.C. at 109, 804 S.E.2d at 854.

# Law

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Respondent admits his conduct violated Rule 8.4(b), RPC, Rule 407, SCACR (committing a criminal act that reflects adversely on a lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer in other respects). Respondent further admits his conduct constitutes grounds for discipline under Rule 7(a)(1), RLDE, Rule 407, SCAR (violating or attempting to violate the Rules of Professional Conduct).

# Conclusion

We find Respondent's misconduct warrants disbarment. Accordingly, we accept the Agreement and disbar Respondent from the practice of law in this state, retroactive to June 5, 2018. Respondent shall pay the costs incurred in the investigation and prosecution of this matter by ODC and the Commission on Lawyer Conduct within thirty (30) days of the date of this opinion. Within fifteen (15) days of the date of this opinion, Respondent shall file an affidavit with the Clerk of Court showing he has complied with Rule 30, RLDE, Rule 413, SCACR, and shall also surrender his Certificate of Admission to the Practice of Law to the Clerk of Court.

## DISBARRED.

BEATTY, C.J., KITTREDGE, HEARN, FEW and JAMES, JJ., concur.

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CERTIFIED TRUE COPY reida I. Al Chief Deputy Clerk, S. C. Supreme Court

# RECEIVED

# Jun 19 2020

# SUPREME COURT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

S.C. SUPREME COURT

# BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON LAWYER CONDUCT

## IN THE MATTER OF:

Jacob Leon Parrott, Lawyer.

Matter Number: 18-DE-L-0679

## AGREEMENT FOR DISCIPLINE BY CONSENT

THIS AGREEMENT FOR DISCIPLINE BY CONSENT is entered into between the Office of the Disciplinary Counsel to the Supreme Court of South Carolina (Disciplinary Counsel) and Jacob Leon Parrott (Lawyer). Pursuant to the provisions of Rule 21 of the Rules for Lawyer Disciplinary Enforcement (RLDE), Rule 413, SCACR, the parties hereto agree that:

1. Lawyer is licensed to practice law in South Carolina and is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission on Lawyer Conduct (the Commission) pursuant to the provisions of RLDE.

2. This Agreement relates to a complaint pending against Lawyer before the Commission bearing Case Number 18-DE-L-0679 (the Proceedings) that was made by Self-Report (the Complainant).

3. Lawyer conditionally admits the occurrence of the following specific factual allegations (the Allegations) as alleged by Disciplinary Counsel:

On June 5, 2018, Lawyer was arrested by the Surfside Police Department and charged with Indecent Exposure in violation of S.C. Code Ann. 16-15-0130. Lawyer was observed exposing his genitals and masturbating. Copies of the Arrest Warrant and.

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Incident Report are attached to this Agreement and made a part of this Agreement. Lawyer self-reported the arrest to Disciplinary Counsel on June 19, 2018. On December 9, 2019, Lawyer entered a plea pursuant to <u>North Carolina v. Alford, 400 U.S. 25</u> (1970). Lawyer was sentenced to three years in the Department of Corrections, which was suspended with probation for twelve months. In addition, Lawyer paid court fines in the amount of \$168.75. The State of South Carolina did not request that Lawyer be placed on the Sex Offender Registry. A copy of the Sentence Sheet is attached to this Agreement and made a part of this Agreement. Lawyer admits that his conduct in this matter violated Rule 8.4(b) of the Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 407, SCACR

4. Lawyer conditionally admits that the Allegations constitute grounds for discipline under Rule 7(a)(1), RLDE. Lawyer conditionally admits violating the specific portions of the Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 407, SCACR, or other rules that govern Lawyer's conduct that are set forth in paragraph 3, above, and any other rules the Commission on Lawyer Conduct or the Supreme Court of South Carolina might find violated by the Allegations.

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5. Lawyer consents to the imposition of any sanction as set forth in Rule 7(b), RLDE, as a final disposition of the Proceedings if this Agreement is finally accepted and a sanction is in fact imposed. Lawyer requests that any suspension be made effective retroactive to the date of his arrest for the underlying criminal violation in this matter – June 5, 2018, but understands that if the Court declines to apply the suspension retroactively, the validity or enforceability of this Agreement is not affected. Disciplinary Counsel does not oppose this request. Within thirty days of imposition of disciplina, Lawyer agrees to pay the costs incurred in the investigation and prosecution of this matter by Disciplinary Counsel and the Commission.

6. Inasmuch as Formal Charges have not been filed by Disciplinary Counsel against Lawyer in connection with the Proceedings, this Agreement shall be submitted to an Investigative Panel of the Commission for its determination as to whether this Agreement should be accepted and, if it so finds, then the Panel must submit this Agreement to the Supreme Court of South Carolina for final approval.

7. Attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference is an affidavit of Lawyer (the Affidavit) as required by Rule 21, RLDE.

8. All admissions and consents made by Lawyer in this Agreement are conditioned upon the final approval and acceptance of this Agreement. If this Agreement is rejected, then this Agreement and the Rule 21 Affidavit shall be deemed withdrawn and shall not thereafter be used for any purpose by or against Lawyer in the Proceedings or any other proceedings; however, this Agreement and the Rule 21 Affidavit may not be withdrawn by Lawyer unless so rejected. This Agreement is not binding on Disciplinary Counsel unless and until it is fully executed by all parties.

9. If this Agreement is finally accepted in accordance with the provisions of Rule 21, RLDE, then the Proceedings shall be terminated upon imposition of discipline. The parties understand and agree that, if this agreement is finally accepted and a public : sanction is imposed by the Court, this agreement and all attachments thereto will ; become matters of public record.

Lawyer is not represented by legal counsel in connection with the;
 Proceedings.

11. Lawyer and Disciplinary Counsel waive any and all rights to oral arguments in connection with this matter.

12. Lawyer's disciplinary history includes Janauary 27, 1997 - Definite 4-Month : suspension - 325 S.C. 162, 480 S.E.2d 722 (1997) (Rules 8.4(b), 8.4(c) equivalent , rules); December 22, 1997 - Reinstated - Sup. Ct. Order; December 29, 2016 - Interim Suspension, 419 S.C. 1, 795 S.E.2d 457 (2016); September 14, 2017 - Definite Suspension, 9 months, 421 S.C. 105, 804 S.E.2d 852 (2017) (Rules 8.3(a) and 8.4(b)).

13. Attached hereto, but not made a part hereof, may be an affidavitt in mitigation which Lawyer request be taken into consideration in determining whether this Agreement should be accepted and/or what would be the appropriate discipline to be imposed in connection with this matter. Discplinary Counsel has not independently investigated the information contained in the affidavit in mitigation except to extent consistent with the Allegations. Any conflict between the affidavit and this Agreement shall be resolved in favor of this Agreement

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have signed and delivered this Agreement as follows. All prior negotiations between Lawyer and Disciplinary Counsel concerning the Proceedings and the matters set forth in this Agreement are merged into this Agreement. This Agreement contains the entire understanding between the parties concerning the matters set forth herein. There have been no promises or inducements made to Lawyer by or on behalf of Disciplinary Counsel related to this Agreement; except for those specifically set out herein.

# SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF:

As to Disciplinary Counsel:

StA P IN Ciat Witness

John S Nichols

Disciplinary Counsel Date: 2020

Witness

C. Tex Davis Jr. Senior Assistant Disciplinary Counsel Date: 1

As to Lawyer: 4. Mars Witness

Jacob Leon Parrott

Jacob-Leon Parrott Lawyer Date: 5-19-2020

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# SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF:

# As to Disciplinary Counsel:

Witness

Witness

# John S. Nichols Disciplinary Counsel Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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As to Lawyer:

Witness

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Jacob Leon Parrott Lawyer Date:

# RECEIVED

# Jun 19 2020

S.C. SUPREME COURT

STATE OF	SC	
COUNTY OF	HOPRY	_}

#### AFFIDAVIT

PERSONALLY appeared before me the undersigned afflant, Jacob Leon Parrott, who, upon first being duly sworn, says that:

1. The Affiant consents to any sanction as set forth in the attached Agreement for Discipline by Consent in connection with case number 18-DE-L-0679 pending before the Commission on Lawyer Conduct as a final disposition of that matter;

2. The consent of the Affiant to any sanction as set forth in Rule 7(b) of RLDE is voluntarily given; and

3. The matters admitted in the attached Agreement and the facts stated in this Affidavit are true.

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on Mar	. 19	, 2020
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Signature of Notary P	ublic for the Stat	d of South Carol
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# STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

### BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT

# COMMISSION ON LAWYER CONDUCT

## In the Matter of Jacob Leon Parrott,

Lawyer.

#### Matter Number: 18-DE-L-0679

#### STATEMENT OF RESPONDENT IN MITIGATION

My name is Jacob Leon Parrott, and I am the respondent in this matter. I offer the following to the panel and to the court by way of mitigation for my current charges.

At the outset, I'd like to say that I've always taken pride in the fact that I was an attorney. My times in the courtroom are some of the most cherished times that I have in my life, especially in matters of litigation when I was able to help people both as a prosecutor and a defense attorney. At this risk of sounding egotistical, I would submit to the court that my skills in the courtroom are rather good. I enjoyed a good deal of success in the courtroom in all manners of litigation throughout my career. I always prided myself on the ability to understand the facts and circumstances of a particular matter and be able to convince clients or victims of crimes about the best way to proceed in a particular matter. I was always able to fashion what I thought were fair and just solutions to just about any circumstance that I came in contact with. During my time working for Thompson Reuters in their legal and regulatory division, I found myself likewise able to fashion workable solutions as I managed high-powered sales professionals handling millions of dollars for our company. I took pride in the work that I did there, and I was quite successful in that endeavor.

In order to lend a little context to the situation, I'd like to briefly give you a history of what's transpired in my life over the last 20 years. To say that the past two decade have been a roller coaster ride would be an understatement. In 2001, my wife of nearly 18 years informed me that she wanted a divorce. She had found somebody else that she felt was a better fit for her life, and despite my best efforts at reconciliation, we ended up separating and much later divorcing. I found myself being the almost full-time custodian of three small daughters who were then in elementary school, with one just about to enter middle school. I embraced this challenge and loved it, although I did find it at times very challenging. Eventually things normalized a bit and my ex-wife became more active in the children's lives and ultimately, we totally shared custody

of the kids. Today I'm proud to say that we're all still a fairly happy family and that my ex-wife is one of my best friends and supporters and has been throughout all of my trials and tribulations.

In 1996 I left the practice of law to work for what was then known as West Publishing. I thrived there and worked my way into a management position in 2001. In 2007, I left the relative comforts of my job as a regional manager at West, now Thompson Reuters, to chase a dream with a start-up company who was beginning a legal outsourcing business, largely based in India. This was a job which initially held great promise; however, the company proved to be unstable and just barely 11 months into our enterprise, our entire business group was let go. So, in late 2008, I found myself without a job, living in Virginia where I was not licensed to practice law, and I had no ability to return to South Carolina to practice as I was still taking care of my then high-school aged daughters in Virginia. I ultimately was able to return to work at Thompson Reuters, albeit in a much lesser role and with lesser pay.

Also, at this time, my relationship with a long-standing girlfriend, whom I had hoped to marry, fizzled, and we broke up. This was a dark period for me, and it is then that my drinking increased. Ultimately somewhere in 2011 I think, I began to drink more alcoholically and not simply as a social drinker. My drinking got progressively worse until February of 2013 when I suffered a life-altering event. On February 23, I began to hemorrhage internally because of my drinking, and I nearly died. Thanks to some very skillful surgeons, I was able to recover, after being placed into a medically induced coma for 7 days. The toll that this took on my girls and my entire family was devastating. It was also devastating to me financially, as my job with Thomson was back filled in my absence and I had to recover physically before I could do any type of work.

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In late 2012, I had taken the Virginia bar exam and passed. Because of some business changes I saw coming at Thomson, I felt I needed a fallback position. My plan was to open a small solo practice concentrating on select criminal and personal injury cases should my employment at Thomson end. Unfortunately, my sickness intervened, and it took me nearly 6 months of healing before I was able to return to work. Ultimately, I was able to build a nice solo practice working from home and I found myself enjoying the practice of law in Virginia. After a slip back into drinking in 2015, I began attending Alcoholics Anonymous. I got sober, had a sponsor, attended meetings regularly and began to understand more about the disease of alcoholism. My life finally felt like it was getting back on track.

GJP

In August of 2015. I left Virginia to return home to Myrtle Beach to take care of my then 85-year-old mother, who was beginning to suffer from the early stages of dementia. This was a move that I was not particularly thrilled with; however, because I am the only child, I felt it was my duty to help my mother. I moved back to Myrtle Beach and took a job working at the firm of Axelrod and Associates, which was, in hindsight, a very bad decision. The work environment at Axelrod was difficult and caring for my mother only added to the difficulty. This combined with the fact that I had drifted away from AA, was not attending meetings on a regular basis, did not acquire a local sponsor nor a home group, eventually led to a relapse. Alcoholism is a progressive and deadly disease. Untreated alcoholism does not get better; it only grows worse and ultimately ends in death. Very quickly, I found myself again drinking on a daily basis and most often to excess. I left my job at Axelrod in January 2016 which was probably the only positive thing that happened in this period of my life, but this only gave me more time for drinking. I was not a very good caregiver to my mother, and I ultimately got arrested for voyeurism, the matter which brought before this body back in 2017.

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On September 16, 2016 I checked into the Lighthouse, which is a treatment facility located in Conway, South Carolina. I attended and completed a 28-day program there, and I've been sober ever since. I attribute my sobriety to the valuable tools that I learned there at the Lighthouse, and the things that I've continued to learn in the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous. I have a sponsor and home group, and I'm very active in AA in the Myrtle Beach area. Today I enjoy a life free of the burdens of alcohol, but I know that my sobriety is contingent on my working the program of AA every day.

There's a saying in Alcoholics Anonymous often heard in the rooms that goes like this, "I came for my drinking, but I stayed for my thinking." The malady of the drink is just one thing suffered by those of us who have addiction. Our thinking is often twisted so that, even in sobriety, we often act in ways that our contrary to our base character. Our impulse control is sometimes diminished, and we often don't think rationally through certain situations.

I offer all this background as a way to frame the issue which brings me before the panel and the court today. I would submit that I'm not a bad person, merely an unhealthy person who is trying to get well. Shortly after I was arrested in June of 2018, I sought out the services of a counselor. I was distraught, ashamed, and confused by what had happened. It was difficult for me understand exactly what had led to my actions. But I was certain of one thing, and that was that I didn't want it to ever happen again. I've been seeing Bonnie Appi, who is psychologist with McCarthy and Associates in Myrtle Beach. Together, she and I have been working through a workbook entitled, <u>The Adult Relapse Prevention Workbook</u>. As we have moved through the lessons contained in this relapse prevention tool, I have found that it essentially mirrors the twelve steps of Alcoholics Anonymous in many ways. It is my firm belief that, provided I use the tools which I have been given, that I will not relapse and that there will not be a recurrence of the type of behavior which has brought me before the court today. I know that recidivism is a major concern in situations like mine. I can only say that I am confident that If I use the skills I've learned that I will not relapse or reoffend.

In all honesty, as I've approached how to deal with this issue before the court, I wondered whether I should even try to maintain the ability to practice law. After giving it a great deal of thought and prayer and doing some soul searching, as well as talking with counselors, my sponsor in AA and other people who I'm close with, I've made the decision that I do want to try and maintain my license. I am humbly and respectfully asking the court to consider allowing me to do so. I believe that I have a purpose as an attorney. Not a week goes by that I don't have at least one or two requests from people within the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous for their help on legal matters. It's frustrating to me not to be able to help them, especially when most are in such dire need of legal assistance.

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If given the chance to continue to practice, I would like to let the court know that it is not my intention to open up a law firm or to begin a fulltime practice in any way. I see myself as offering my services on a pro bono or reduced fee basis to those in the rooms who can afford it. Our profession is a higher calling and I do take that seriously. As my record reflects, I have never had a complaint lodged against me related to my conduct in any legal matter that I undertook. I feel like this is a way for me to engage in the profession that I do truly love while, at the same time, giving back the gifts which have been so freely given to me. I hope the court will consider my circumstances accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jacob Leon Parrott

May 18, 2020

Office of Disciplinary Counsel P.O. Box 12159 Columbia, SC 29211

Re: Matter of Jacob Leon Parrott

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of Leon Parrott, my friend, co-worker and manager of many years. I am aware of the circumstances which have brought him before the commission and of all the previous matters which have brought him before this body. Despite these missteps I am writing to urge the commission to fashion a solution for Leon which will allow him to continue to practice law one day.

I first met Leon in 1997 when we both worked for the same company then known as The Thomson Corporation (now Thomson Reuters). Leon and I were colleagues at this time both working in the sales force for Thomson, he in the DC area and me in South Carolina. After coming to work for Thomson, Leon quickly rose to the top tier of employees within our company winning many awards at the regional, divisional and national level. He was often chosen by our superiors to teach and present to those of us salespeople, who were non-lawyers, the various products and services that Thomson-West offered. Leon was always helpful to me and to anyone who would ask for his assistance in becoming a better salesperson.

In 2001 Leon's career changed and he became a regional sales manager responsibility for South Carolina and DC. It was at this time that I became one of his direct reports and I was very pleased that he was my manager. Leon proved to have the touch needed to assist me to achieve my goals and was always ready to lend a hand.

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I have since retired from Thomson as has Leon however, we have continued to remain friends and we see each other at least three times each week. I am familiar with Leon's battles with alcoholism and his dealings with other mental health issues. I have always been impressed by his honesty with me regarding these issues and how he has coped with the difficulties that they have presented him. I count him as one of my most valued friends and advisors.

From my view, as someone who sees Leon interact with others, I believe that he is dealing with his difficulties admirably and I would be greatly surprised if he finds himself back before this commission ever again.

After working for many years within the legal community in South Carolina I have come to know many attorneys quite well. Based on this, I know of Leon's reputation as a prosecutor and a defense attorney here in the Horry-Georgetown County area. He is well respected and was considered a formidable force in the courtroom during his years in practice. I feel it would be a shame for these talents to go to waste. It is my hope and urging that the commission fashion a resolution to Leon's issues that will allow him to practice law again at some point down the road.

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Respectfully submitted Robert/F. Brutschy

Mark G..Cacuso 8185 Sandlapper Way Myrtie Beach SC 29572 <u>mgcaruso@vahoo.com</u> 410-804-6327

C. Tex Davis Office of Disciplinary Counsel South Carolina Supreme Court Dear Mr. Davis

#### Dear Mr. Davis,

I am writing today on behalf of Mr. Leon Parrott, to share my experience in fellowship and friendship with Leon since I've relocated to Myrtle Beach in November of 2018 from Ellicott City MD.

Leon and I are both members of the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, in which I have been a sober member since October 1993. "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience strength and hope..." – one to another so that they may stay sober and help others to achieve sobriety. Within weeks of my arrival in Myrtle Beach I met Leon and became aware of and impressed by the prodigy of service he was rendering to the local AA groups and to the Myrtle Beach Alano Club -located on 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Leon actively serves as a meeting chairperson, a meeting participant, an AA Intergroup representative, an AA hot-line phone coordinator as well as a coordinator of AA meetings conducted on site by members at "Light House Behavioral Heath Center" in Conway.

Leon's spirit of kindness and support was demonstrated during our growing friendship – in which he shared a great deal about the Grand Strand, its culture, heritage and history, as well as insights into the daily challenges and pleasures (such as golf) of relocation to a new area, – an area that includes Hurricane preparation, with which he helped me a great deal

In a 32 year career as a Federal Civil Servant – at the US Army Research Laboratory, as well as the last 7 years in senior managerial positions with small businesses – I have been granted the ability to assess the character of people, including those who have erred; are willing to admit and learn from mistakes, and ultimately to them turn these lessons to good account. That is the essence of Leon's character.

I am grateful to count Leon Parrott among my friends and as a fellow member of Alcoholics Anonymous would not hesitate to engage him in any matter of trust. I would be happy to expand upon these remarks in any way you deem appropriate.

It has been my pleasure to provide this letter to you.

- Sincerely

Mark G. Caruso, MS, MBA Vice President IT & Services GigaTECH George G. Hirsch 5712 Longleaf Dr. -Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

C. Tex Davis

Office of Disciplinary Counsel South Carolina Supreme Court Re: File # 16-DE-L-1535

Dear Mr. Davis,

I'm writing in regard to Leon Parrott and his appeal to return to the practice of Law. I've known Mr. Parrott since he first became involved in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous here in Myrtle Beach.

From the beginning, in regard to his efforts to overcome the disease of alcoholism, I found Leon to be serious, hard-working, and quick to volunteer for service roles in our home group at the Myrtle Beach Alano Club. I also have come to respect his commitment to outreach services, particularly the monthly AA meetings he brings into the Light House, a Conway-area treatment center for alcoholics and addicts. And to personally underscore the importance of such outreach services, I can attest that my introduction to the program of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1999 occurred in the exact same fashion. It literally saved my life.

Over the past several years we have become friends, as well. We eat lunch together weekly. Throughout those conversations I have developed a special respect for Leon's commitment to family, which includes the care of his elderly mother and the recent wedding he arranged for his daughter.

I am a businessman who has worked with many (dozens) of lawyers in my career. So it is natural for me to turn to friends who have law degrees for informed (and informal) advice on legal matters. Leon has always impressed me with his knowledge of the law, his ability to articulate concepts clearly and concisely, and his good nature throughout discussion of such matters. I'd hire him if that were to become possible.

We in Alcoholics Anonymous suffer from a disease of the mind and body. The American Medical Association (AMA) formally recognizes our disease and offers a simple solution: total abstention from alcohol. To achieve total abstinence, the program of Alcoholics Anonymous is recommended as the best treatment. Leon practices this program of treatment daily, which I know to be true, because I am there with him.

In my humble opinion, South Carolina would be well served by letting Leon return to the practice of law, particularly given the huge growth in numbers of law-breakers who abuse alcohol and drugs.

George G. Hirsch

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APR N 8 2020 OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

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	2018A2620800084	County (X) Mundcpality of ) AFFIDAVIT Surfside Beach
	STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	Personally appeared before me the atliant Jacob E Dinkelacker
• •	And a second	being duly sworn deposes and says that detendant Jacob L Parrott
	Surfside Beach	did within this county and state on or about 6/ 5/2018 State of South Carolina (or ordinance of County/ X Municipality of Store
	THE STATE 18008702 against	State of South Carolina (or ordinance of County/ X Municipality of Sur In the following particulars: DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Sex / Indecent exposure
	Jacob L Parrott	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	Address: 360 Mckendree Ln	
	Myrtle Beach, SC 29579-1351	I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant of the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:
	Ser: M       Race; W       Height 5       8       Weight 190         DL State: SC       DL #:       Agency OFU #: SC0260800          Prosecuting Agency:       Surfside Police Department          Prosecuting Officer:       Jacob E Dinkelacker - S00971          Offense:       Scx / Indecent exposure	On 06/05/2018 at approx. 1401hrs Officers with the Surfside Beach Police Department w is in the Town of Surfside Beach. County of Horry, for a report of a male exposing filming officers were able to identify and detain the defendant as described by witnesses/victims, the defendant did expose his genital area as he masturbated within public view. After reco witnesses/victims the defendant was placed under arrest. There is Probable cause to belie Carolina Code of Law 16-15-0130.
	Offense Code: 0091	
	CoderOrdinance Sec: 16-15-0130	Signature of Alfiant OFC
	This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the	STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
	County! . Municipality of . The accused '	County X Municipality of Surfside Beach, SC
	is to be arrested and brought before me to be dealt with according to the law.	Surfside Beach (843)913-6368
		ARREST WARRANT
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AGENCY LD. SUPPLEMENTARY INCIDENT REPORT 18008702 SC0260800 Surfeide Beach Police Department C BRAN COPLEMENTAL ----D ANY DELLA D ADDITIONAL MADE MADE The Offender was then placed under errest for Indecent Exposure. Upon search of the Offender's person a bottle of KY Jelly was located in the Offender's gight pocket, a cell phone in the laft pocket. A multi colored towal was in the possession of the Offender at the time of the Offenders detaining. These items were saized for evidence. Pfc. Bans photographed the incident location. Pfc. Sans located and collected tissue paper near the area where the Offender was exposing himself and masturbating; The tissue was also collected as evidence. CFL. Willis transported the Offender to SBPD jail. All evidence seized were documented and placed into evidence locker #2. A Warrant #2018A2620800084 for Indecent Exposure was obtained and served on the Offender. The Offender's Ford Explorer was located a few blocks down from the incident location. The Offender's wallet and keys were recoved from the vehicle and returned to the Offender's property at SEPD Jail. The vehicle was illegally parked on private property and was towed by Low Country Towing. . . . Ł k C EXCLARIANCE (S TI MORE STORED Ants Manta STRATE DOTED MUSERIES SI REP OV EFGLER G 4 an 0 ND9 100 100.00 OR DEATH 647 - Corporal James Willis 01052018 03/05/2018 TOT - Officer Jacob Dinkslacker THE REPORTED IN CONTRACT OF 09/05/2018 CI YES IS 18.767 -Officer Jacob Statz atter 82 - Captain Arrow Miller

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SURFSIDE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT VOLUNTARY STATEMENT (Written) Legal Notice: You are being asked to provide a written statement to law enforcement. By signing in the space below, you affirm you are making this statement of your own free will and swear it is true and correct to the best of your knowledge. You additionally understand that knowingly giving false information to law enforcement is a crime, violating S.C. Code §16-17-726 and may subject you to criminal prosecution. 1800 8702 Name: Chris Dale. Case #: . Address: Phone: Race: W DOB: . Sex: (Instructions: Write your initials at the start and end of the statement prior to signing) loaked and OVER Yun 1cont 15 orh 24 630 + have read each page of ins statement and I swear the facis contained are tue and correct. Date: 06 Signature: Date: 136 Officer. CODD 6000 1000 1

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THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA In The Supreme Court

SEP 1 4 2017

OFFICE OF

In the Matter of Jacob Leon Parrott, Respondent.

Appellate Case No. 2017-001451

Opinion No. 27736 Submitted August 25, 2017 – Filed September 14, 2017

# **DEFINITE SUSPENSION**

Lesley M. Coggiola, Disciplinary Counsel, and C. Tex Davis, Jr., Senior Assistant Disciplinary Counsel, both of Columbia, for Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

Jacob Leon Parrott, of Myrtle Beach, Pro Se.

**PER CURIAM:** In this attorney disciplinary matter, respondent and the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) have entered into an Agreement for Discipline by Consent (Agreement) pursuant to Rule 21 of the Rules for Lawyer Disciplinary Enforcement (RLDE) contained in Rule 413 of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules (SCACR). In the Agreement, respondent admits misconduct and consents to discipline ranging from a public reprimand to a definite suspension not to exceed nine months. Respondent requests the sanction be made retroactive to the date of interim suspension,<sup>1</sup> but understands that if the Court declines to apply the sanction retroactively, the validity or enforceability of the Agreement is not affected. ODC does not oppose the request.

Respondent has agreed to pay the costs incurred by ODC and the Commission on Lawyer Conduct in the investigation and prosecution of this matter. Respondent has also agreed, as a condition of discipline, to enter into a two year monitoring

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Respondent was placed on interim suspension by order dated December 29, 2016. In re Parrott, 406 S.C. 641, 753 S.E.2d 532 (2014).

contract with Lawyers Helping Lawyers and file annual reports of his compliance with the contract with the Commission on Lawyer Conduct.

We accept the Agreement and suspend respondent from the practice of law in this state for nine months, not retroactive. The facts, as set forth in the Agreement, are as follows.

# Facts .

In August 2016, respondent was arrested and charged with voyeurism pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 16-17-470(B) (2015) after he used a cell phone to take a picture up a woman's skirt in a grocery store. He was 56 years old at the time. Respondent failed to inform the Commission on Lawyer Conduct in writing within fifteen days of the arrest. Respondent represents he reviewed the rule regarding self-reporting an arrest and consulted with an attorney, but concluded he did not have a duty to self-report.

In January 2017, the charge was remanded to the municipal court contingent upon respondent pleading guilty to assault and battery, third degree. The following month, respondent pled guilty as agreed and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$776.

By way of an affidavit in mitigation, respondent states he is an alcoholic in active recovery and attends Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) five to seven times a week. Respondent states he had been sober for approximately 235 days as of the date of the affidavit - May 15, 2017. He also attends a follow-up care program at Coastal Recovery Center where he is completing their intensive outpatient treatment program. He has provided a letter from the Center regarding his continued participation in outpatient treatment and stating respondent appears to be committed to "life-long recovery in abstinence based recovery principles."

Respondent explains that he progressed from being a social drinker to an alcoholic in 2013 and began attending AA "off and on" at that point, with some periods of sobriety, including one twenty-month period. At the time, he was living in Northern Virginia and had the support of sober friends and an AA sponsor. Respondent states he was "highly successful" while working in the Northern Virginia/DC area where he "excelled" in positions with Westlaw/Thomson Reuters. However, when Thomson Reuters downsized, respondent lost his job. He took and passed the Virginia bar examination and established a solo practice in Northern Virginia, while maintaining his license to practice law in South Carolina.

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However, in August 2015, respondent moved from Virginia to Myrtle Beach to care for his elderly mother. He took a job with a criminal defense firm, but left their employ in January 2016. Respondent neglected to participate in AA after he relocated and soon relapsed, "culminating with binge drinking in the summer of 2016." At his family's insistence, he scheduled himself to be checked in to an inpatient treatment facility. However, on the day he was scheduled to report to the treatment facility, he was charged with the crime that is the basis of this disciplinary action. Respondent was highly intoxicated at the time of the incident and when he checked in to the treatment facility later that day. He completed a twenty-eight day inpatient program followed by two months of intensive outpatient treatment. Respondent has submitted a letter from the treatment facility regarding his participation in treatment while hospitalized.

Respondent notes that in nearly thirty-four years of practice as an assistant solicitor and a private practitioner, no client or any other party has lodged any type of complaint against him relating to his work.

In 1997, this Court imposed a four month suspension on respondent after he pled guilty to simple assault and battery for pulling down a woman's bathing suit while she was sunbathing at the beach in 1994. In re Parrott, 325 S.C. 162, 480 S.E.2d 722 (1997). The opinion notes respondent had been involved in a similar incident in 1989, but was not prosecuted. Respondent covered his face in both incidents and fled when the women put up a struggle. He had no prior connections with either woman. In mitigation, respondent offered the testimony of a psychiatrist who testified respondent was suffering from "an adjustment disorder with mixed emotions and problems with conduct." The psychiatrist opined a "psychosexual development arrest" caused the assaults. It was also the psychiatrist's opinion respondent was "developmentally arrested at the adolescent stage and his acts showed the type of sexually immature behavior normally associated with that stage." The psychiatrist believed respondent's developmental problems occurred because of family problems when respondent was growing up, that the acts would not recur, and that respondent was responding well to treatment and counseling.

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Respondent acknowledges his prior disciplinary history, but points out he had no further instances of such behavior since the offense in 1994. He states that since that time, his career and personal life have been rewarding, noting he "largely raised" his three daughters on his own when they were younger.

# Law

Respondent admits that his criminal conduct reflects adversely on his honesty, trustworthiness, and/or fitness as a lawyer and that the criminal act involved moral turpitude in violation of Rules 8.4(b) and (c) of the Rules of Professional Conduct (RPC), Rule 407, SCACR. Respondent further admits his failure to notify the Commission on Lawyer Conduct of his arrest constituted a violation of Rule 8.3(a), RPC, which requires a lawyer arrested for or charged by way of indictment, information or complaint with a serious crime to inform the Commission on Lawyer Conduct in writing within fifteen days of being arrested or charged. Rule 1.0(o), RPC, defines a serious crime as including a crime which reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects.

Finally, respondent admits he is subject to discipline pursuant to the following Rules for Lawyer Disciplinary Enforcement, Rule 413, SCACR: Rule 7(a)(1) (it shall be a ground for discipline for a lawyer to violate or attempt to violate the Rules of Professional Conduct or any other rules of this jurisdiction regarding professional conduct of lawyers); Rule 7(a)(4) (it shall be a ground for discipline for a lawyer to be convicted of a crime of moral turpitude or serious crime); and Rule 7(a)(5) (it shall be a ground for discipline for a lawyer to engage in conduct tending to pollute the administration of justice or to bring the courts or the legal profession into disrepute or conduct demonstrating an unfitness to practice law).

# Conclusion

We hereby suspend respondent from the practice of law in this state for nine months from the date of this opinion. Respondent shall pay the costs incurred by ODC and the Commission on Lawyer Conduct in the investigation and prosecutions of this matter. Respondent shall also enter into a two year monitoring contract with Lawyers Helping Lawyers and file annual reports of his compliance with the contract with the Commission on Lawyer Conduct.

Within fifteen days of the date of this opinion, respondent shall file an affidavit with the Clerk of Court showing that he has complied with Rule 30, RLDE, Rule 413, SCACR.

#### DEFINITE SUSPENSION.

BEATTY, C.J., KITTREDGE, HEARN, FEW and JAMES, JJ., concur.

# THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA In the Supreme Court

JAN 117 1907

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

In the Matter of J. Leon Parrott,

Respondent.

Opinion No. 24568 Heard December 4, 1996 - Filed January 27, 1997

#### DEFINITE SUSPENSION

George M. Hearn, Jr., and Thomas C. Brittain, of Hearn, Brittain & Martin, of Conway, for respondent.

Charles Molony Condon, Attorney General, and J. Emory Smith, Jr., Assistant Deputy Attorney General, both of Columbia, for complainant.

PER CURIAM: In this attorney discipline matter, Respondent Parrott has admitted misconduct. The only issue before this Court is the appropriate sanction. After reviewing the record in this case, we hereby suspend Respondent from the practice of law for a period of four months.

On May 11, 1994, Respondent pulled down a woman's bathing suit while she was sunbathing at or near Surfside Beach. He entered a plea pursuant to <u>North</u> <u>Carolina v. Alford</u><sup>1</sup> to simple assault and battery in relation to this conduct on November 29, 1994.<sup>2</sup> Respondent was sentenced to a \$200 fine or thirty days imprisonment, and has satisfied this sentence. In October 1989, Respondent tried to pull off another woman's bikini bottom while she was sunbathing at or near North Myrtle Beach. He was not prosecuted for this offense. Respondent covered his face during both incidents and retreated when the women put up a struggle. He had no prior connection with either woman.

While he initially denied all allegations in the complaint, Respondent later

1400 U.S. 25 (1970).

<sup>2</sup>The complaint came about as the result of the Board's notice of this plea.

amended his answer to admit both incidents described above. He also admits this conduct violated the Rules of Professional Conduct. In mitigation, Respondent offered the testimony of Dr. James Thrasher, a psychiatrist who testified Respondent was suffering from an "adjustment disorder with mixed emotions and problems with conduct." According to Dr. Thrasher, a "psychosexual developmental arrest" caused these assaults. In his opinion, Respondent was developmentally arrested at the adolescent stage, and his acts showed the type of sexually immature behavior normally associated with that stage. He felt Respondent's developmental problems occurred because of family problems when Respondent was growing up. He opined that there was no medical reason Respondent could not practice law, and he felt that the acts would not recur. Respondent was responding very well to treatment and counselling. At the time of the panel hearing, Respondent was still seeing Dr. Thrasher. Since that time his therapy has been concluded upon Dr. Thrasher's recommendation. Respondent also offered testimony from a fellow legal colleague and his minister. Both testified to Respondent's good standing, both in the legal and general community.

The panel found Respondent's acts constituted misconduct.<sup>3</sup> They unanimously recommended a public reprimand with the condition that Respondent continue to receive counselling for as long as Dr. Thrasher deemed necessary. The Board adopted the panel's findings of fact and conclusions of law. They voted five to one to recommend a public reprimand with the same conditions. The dissenting member voted to recommend a ninety-day suspension with conditions.

This court has the ultimate authority to discipline attorneys and can draw its own conclusions from the facts presented. <u>Matter of Dobson</u>, 310 S.C. 422, 427 S.E.2d 166 (1993). We agree with the panel and Board that Respondent has committed a criminal act reflecting adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer. Rule 8.4(b), Rule 407, SCACR. We also find he has engaged in conduct involving moral turpitude. Rule 8.4(c), Rule 407, SCACR; DR 1-102(A)(3), Code of Professional Responsibility (repealed). <u>See also State v. Ball</u> 292 S.C. 71, 354 S.E.2d 906 (1987), <u>overruled on other grounds</u>, <u>State v. Major</u>, 301 S.C. 181, 391 S.E.2d 235 (1990) ("A crime of moral turpitude is an act of baseness, vileness or depravity in the private and social duties which man owes to his fellow man or to society in general, contrary to the customary and accepted rule of right and duty between man."); <u>State v. Hall</u>, 306 S.C. 293, 411 S.E.2d 441 (Ct. App. 1991) (suggesting that whether simple assault and battery involves moral turpitude should be decided on a case by case basis). <u>State v. Holmes</u>, <u>S.C.</u>, 464 S.E.2d 334

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Specifically, they found Respondent committed criminal acts adversely reflecting on a lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness and fitness; and violated one or more of the provisions in Rule 8.4, Rule 407, SCACR and DR 1-102. The Code of Professional Responsibility was in effect in October 1989 when the first assault occurred and would be applicable to this conduct. It was replaced in September of 1990 by the Rules of Professional Conduct.

(1995), <u>cert. denied</u>, 116 S. Ct. 2507 (1996) (violation of "Peeping Tom"<sup>4</sup> statute crime of moral turpitude). Such conduct can only bring the legal profession into disrepute. <u>See</u> Rule 413(5)(D), SCACR; ¶ 5(D), Rule on Disciplinary Procedure (former).

This court has dealt with several cases involving sexual misconduct of attorneys and judges. Usually the misconduct occurs when an attorney has a sexual relationship with a client, or a judge has a sexual relationship with a party appearing before him or her. <u>See, e.g., Matter of Bilbro</u>, Op. No. 24513 (Davis Adv. Sh. No. 29 at 8) (S.C. Sup. Ct. filed Nov. 4, 1996) (six month suspension); <u>Matter of Gravely</u>, Op. No. 24381 (Davis Adv. Sh. No. 5 at 27) (S.C. Sup. Ct. filed March 4, 1996) (public reprimand); <u>Matter of Mendenhall</u>, 316 S.C. 196, 447 S.E.2d 858 (1994) (disbarment); <u>Matter of Keitt</u>, <u>S.C.</u>, 468 S.E.2d 875 (1996) (ninety day suspension); <u>Matter of Matter of McBratney</u>, S.C. <u>468</u>, 354 S.E.2d 383 (1987) (public reprimand). However, we have suspended attorneys for nonconsensual sexual misconduct. <u>See In re Bellino</u>, 308 S.C. 130, 417 S.E.2d 535 (1992) (six month suspension imposed for taking indecent liberties with clients); <u>Matter of Sprott</u>, 288 S.C. 457, 343 S.E.2d 448 (1986) (indefinite suspension imposed when attorney convicted of CSC with minor and contributing to delinquency of minor).

We find a temporary suspension is within the range of sanctions imposed for conduct similar in nature to that in this case. In finding so we take into consideration Respondent's willingness to admit his misconduct and his mitigating testimony showing he is attempting to correct whatever caused him to act in such'a reprehensible manner. We are also mindful of Respondent's otherwise favorable reputation. However, none of this excuses the conduct before us today. Respondent is hereby suspended from the practice of law for a period of four months. Respondent shall file an affidavit with the Clerk of Court, within ten (10) days of service of this opinion, showing that he has complied with Paragraph 30 of Rule 413, SCACR.

DEFINITE SUSPENSION.

the Atomas A'J.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

Chief Deputy Cler

\*S.C. Code Ann. § 16-17-470 (Supp. 1995).