

FILED

JUL 27 2015

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT  
OF  
THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

In re:

Complaint against

Meredith Lynn Lawrence, Esq.  
107 E. High St.  
P.O. Box 1330  
Warsaw, KY 41095

15 - 048 a a

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Attorney Registration No. (0029098)

COMPLAINT AND CERTIFICATE

Respondent,

(Rule V of the Supreme Court Rules for  
the Government of the Bar of Ohio.)

Disciplinary Counsel  
250 Civic Center Drive, Suite 325  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-7411

Relator.

Now comes relator, Disciplinary Counsel, and alleges that respondent, Meredith Lynn Lawrence, an Attorney at Law, duly admitted to the practice of law in the State of Ohio, is guilty of the following misconduct:

1. Respondent was admitted to the practice of law in the State of Ohio on May 6, 1977. As an attorney, respondent is subject to the Code of Professional Responsibility, the Rules of Professional Conduct, and the Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio.
2. On November 29, 2012, the Supreme Court of Ohio ordered that respondent be suspended from the practice of law in Ohio due to a felony conviction, which is explained below. To date, respondent remains suspended from the practice of law in Ohio pursuant to the Court's November 29, 2012 order.

3. Respondent is also licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Kentucky; however, according to his attorney registration, he is currently suspended from the practice of law in Kentucky for disciplinary reasons.
4. Respondent was previously licensed to practice law in the State of Texas; however, he resigned his license to practice law in Texas on January 27, 2015.

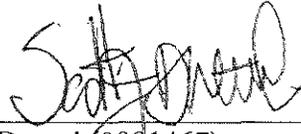
#### **Criminal Conviction and Appeals**

5. On July 6, 2012, and following a two-week jury trial in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky, respondent was found guilty of three counts of filing false tax returns in violation of 26 U.S.C. § 7206(1). *Case no. 2:11-CR-52 DCR-1, United States of America v. Meredith L. Lawrence.*
6. On November 15, 2012, respondent was sentenced to 27 months incarceration on each count to be served concurrently, and he was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$128,253.26. Upon his release from prison, respondent was also ordered to serve a one-year term of supervised release.
7. Respondent's conviction was based on federal tax returns that he filed in 2005, 2006, and 2007 (for tax years 2004, 2005, and 2006) in which the jury found that respondent had knowingly under-reported income from various businesses that he owned or in which he was a partner. Some of the unreported income came from businesses that were tangentially related to respondent's practice of law, such as income that respondent received from attorneys who rented office space from him.
8. On November 20, 2012, respondent filed a Notice of Appeal with the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit as to his conviction and sentence.
9. On March 3, 2014, the Sixth Circuit affirmed the judgment of the district court.

10. On July 16, 2014, respondent filed a Petition for a Writ of Certiorari with the Supreme Court of the United States.
11. On October 8, 2014, the Supreme Court of the United States denied respondent's Petition for Writ of Certiorari.
12. On December 31, 2014, respondent filed a Motion for a New Trial in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky. In his motion, respondent claimed that he had hired a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) to file amended tax returns for 2004, 2005, and 2006 and that the CPA determined that he had actually over-reported his income during those years.
13. On February 2, 2015, respondent's Motion for a New Trial was denied.
14. On February 5, 2015, respondent filed a Notice of Appeal with the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit regarding the denial of his Motion for a New Trial. That appeal is still pending.
15. On February 13, 2015, respondent was released from the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and he is currently serving his one-year term of supervised release.
16. Respondent's conduct as outlined above violates that Code of Professional Responsibility, specifically DR 1-102(A)(3) (prohibiting a lawyer from engaging in conduct involving moral turpitude) and DR 1-102(A)(4) (prohibiting a lawyer from engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation).

## CONCLUSION

Wherefore, pursuant to Gov. Bar R. V, the Code of Professional Responsibility and the Rules of Professional Conduct, relator alleges that respondent is chargeable with misconduct; therefore, relator requests that respondent be disciplined pursuant to Rule V of the Rules of the Government of the Bar of Ohio.



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Scott J. Drexel (0091467)  
Disciplinary Counsel



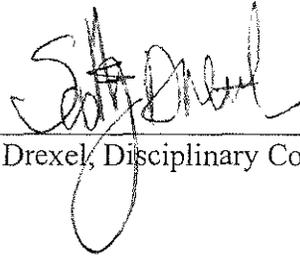
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**CERTIFICATE**

The undersigned, Scott J. Drexel, Disciplinary Counsel, of the Office of Disciplinary Counsel of the Supreme Court of Ohio hereby certifies that Karen H. Osmond is duly authorized to represent relator in the premises and has accepted the responsibility of prosecuting the complaint to its conclusion. After investigation, relator believes reasonable cause exists to warrant a hearing on such complaint.

Dated: July 27, 2015



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Scott J. Drexel, Disciplinary Counsel

HELMER, MARTINS, RICE & POPHAM  
Co., L.P.A.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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Supreme Court of Ohio

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July 21, 2015

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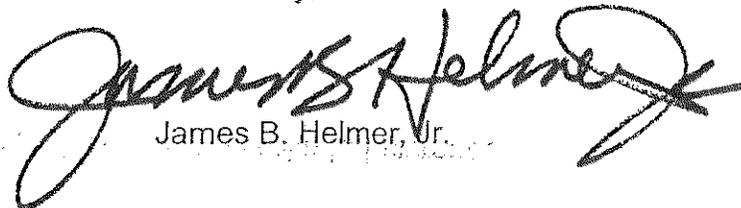
Re: Your File No. B4-1443, Meredith L. Lawrence

Dear Ms. Osmond:

Pursuant to Gov. Bar Rule V, Section 11, please be advised that Meredith L. Lawrence waives his right to an independent determination of probable cause by the Board of Professional Conduct of the Ohio Supreme Court for the allegations made in the complaint previously provided by your office.

Please let me know if I can provide you with any additional information or be of any further assistance in connection with this matter.

Yours truly,



James B. Helmer, Jr.

cc: Meredith L. Lawrence