

United States Court of Federal Claims**In the Matter of:****Howell R. Riggs****No. 15-11185****ORDER**

On May 7, 2014, the Disciplinary Commission of the Alabama State Bar (Commission) placed Mr. Riggs on probation for two years for violating Rules 1.1 (Competence), 1.3 (Diligence), 1.15(a) (Safekeeping Property), and 8.4(a) and (g) (Misconduct) of the Alabama Rules of Professional Conduct. Mr. Riggs's probation was conditional on his payment of restitution to two former clients within six months of the date of the order. On February 11, 2015, the Commission found that Mr. Riggs had failed to provide proof of his restitution payments, and suspended him from the practice of law for a period of 180 days.

Meanwhile, in this court, Mr. Riggs was counsel of record for plaintiff in *Government Tech. Servs. v. United States*, No. 10-403C. During the course of litigation, defense counsel reported to the court that Mr. Riggs had alerted them that he had been "suspended by the Bar for 180 days effective February 20, 2015," and that his "health ha[d] become a real issue" such that he intended to withdraw as counsel for plaintiff. On April 1, 2015, the court directed Mr. Riggs to respond to defendant's report, but Mr. Riggs failed to respond. On April 26, 2015, the court dismissed the case with prejudice for failure to prosecute and for failure to comply with court rules and the court's order.

Pursuant to Rule 83.2(g)(6) of the Rules of the United States Court of Federal Claims, an Order to Show Cause was issued by this court on November 6, 2015, and again on December 10, 2015, directing Mr. Riggs to show cause within thirty (30) days why he should not be suspended from practicing law before the United States Court of Federal Claims for one (1) year. As of this date, Mr. Riggs has failed to respond to the Order to Show Cause. Therefore,

IT IS ORDERED that Howell R. Riggs is suspended from the practice of law before the United States Court of Federal Claims for one (1) year, effective on the date this order is entered. *See* RCFC 83.2(h)(4). Reinstatement is not automatic. Petitions for reinstatement are governed by RCFC 83.2(k) and must be accompanied by a certificate of good standing from the bar of the highest court of a U.S. state or the District of Columbia, as well as a certificate of good standing from the Alabama Supreme Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of Court shall serve Howell R. Riggs with a copy of this order.



JAMES F. MEROW
Judge



MARY ELLEN COSTER WILLIAMS
Judge



ELAINE D. KAPLAN
Judge