

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SUPREME COURT

ORDER

LD-2009-0008, In the Matter of Paula L. Philbrook

On October 7, 2009, the Attorney Discipline Office filed a petition for immediate suspension of Attorney Paula L. Philbrook from the practice of law and for other relief. In the petition, the Attorney Discipline Office alleges that Attorney Philbrook has agreed to plead guilty to a criminal information charging her with Wire Fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343. It contends that the charge for which Attorney Philbrook has acknowledged guilt is of such a serious nature that her immediate suspension from the practice of law is necessary to protect the public and to maintain the integrity of the profession.

Based on the information provided with the petition, the court finds that Attorney Philbrook's immediate suspension from the practice of law is necessary to protect the public and to preserve the integrity of the legal profession. See Rule 37(16)(f). Accordingly, it is hereby ordered that:

- (1) Paula L. Philbrook is immediately suspended from the practice of law in New Hampshire until further order of this court;
- (2) Copies of this order and of the petition shall be served on Attorney Philbrook by first class mail and certified mail, return receipt requested; and
- (3) Attorney Philbrook may show cause on or before ten days from the date of service why the suspension should be lifted and why the other relief requested in the petition should not be granted.

Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 37(17), Attorney Catherine E. Shanelaris is appointed to take immediate possession of the client files and trust and other fiduciary accounts of Attorney Philbrook, to make an inventory of such files and accounts, and to take such action as is necessary to protect the interests of Attorney Philbrook's clients. Attorney Shanelaris is ordered to take the following actions:

- a. notify all employees of Attorney Philbrook of her appointment by the court and of Attorney Philbrook's suspension from the practice of law;

- b. notify all banks and other entities where any trust or fiduciary accounts and operating accounts of Attorney Philbrook are held of her appointment and of Attorney Philbrook's suspension;
- c. review any client files that Attorney Philbrook maintained, and take such actions as she deems necessary to protect the interests of the clients;
- d. notify Attorney Philbrook's clients by certified mail, return receipt requested, of her suspension, informing them of any action which appears to be required in the immediate future in order to preserve their legal rights and advising them that they should obtain the services of other lawyers of their choice; and
- e. make an inventory of Attorney Philbrook's client files and trust and other fiduciary accounts, and file a copy of the inventory with the court on or before December 8, 2009, together with a report of her actions taken under this order and a recommendation as to what further actions should be taken to protect the interests of Attorney Philbrook's clients.

The Committee on Professional Conduct shall pay the fees of Attorney Shanalaris, in the first instance, to be reimbursed by Attorney Philbrook unless otherwise ordered by the court.

Broderick, C.J., and Dalianis, Duggan, Hicks and Conboy, JJ., concurred.

DATE: October 9, 2009

ATTEST:

Muriel A. Caraway, Deputy Clerk
for Eileen Fox, Clerk

Distribution:

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File