

14-17-00521-CV

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE
FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT HOUSTON, TEXAS

ROBERT S. BENNETT,
Appellant,
v.
COMMISSION FOR LAWYER DISCIPLINE,
Appellee.

Appellant's Amicus Letter

On Appeal from the 344th District Court, Harris County, Texas

Cause No. 2013-56866
Hon. Craig Smith, presiding

BOB BENNETT
ATTORNEY AT LAW

ALI YOUNES

ROBERT S. BENNETT
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ALI YOUNES
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ORAL ARGUMENT REQUESTED

October 27, 2018

Honorable Christopher A. Pine, Clerk
Fourteenth Court of Appeals
301 Fannin Street, Suite 245
Houston, Texas 77002

RE: ***Robert S. Bennett, Appellant. V. Commission for Lawyer Discipline, Appellee***
On Appeal from the 344th District Court, Harris County, Texas Cause No. 2013-56866

Dear Mr. Pine:

The purpose of this letter is to provide the Court with an e-mail from Law Student Ali Younes 14614 Bradford Colony Dr. Houston, TX 77084 regarding the case at issue. The Appellant, Robert S. Bennett and Ali Younes, files this their Letter Amicus pursuant to Texas Rule of Appellate Procedure 38.7. Request is hereby made that this letter be submitted to the Panel so that the Court may rule on this request that it supplement the briefing with this letter and consider this Attorney Amicus Letter regarding issues raised in the Appeal.

First, it was wise of the court and we appreciate the considered opinion in: *Robert S. Bennett vs. Commission for Lawyer Discipline*, No. 14-14-00740-CV, Fourteenth Court of Appeals-Houston, March 24, 2016. This decision vindicated the Appellant's handling of any client funds. It also corrected the serious judicial mistake which abruptly and unfairly deprived the Appellant of his livelihood. Unfortunately, on June 17, 2017 the second trial judge on the case, Judge Craig Smith of Dallas, Texas at the Second Sanction Hearing that this Court ordered, imposed the same sentence as Juvenile Judge Carmen Kelsey did who was removed from the case. This Second Sanction Hearing partially undid what this Court had tried to accomplish in a just way.

Second, since the Second Sanction Hearing was decided by the second sanction trial judge, the Honorable Craig Smith, the Appellant Trial Brief was filed on November 20, 2017, the Appellant Reply Brief was filed on January 23, 2018. It is hoped that all Amicus filings will be considered by this Court.

Third, Ali Younes in his attached Letter joins the other submissions and requests that Oral Argument should be granted, the Disciplinary Rules of Procedure 3.10 were not properly considered or followed, no evidence was offered at the Second Sanction Hearing that would support a 2 years plus six months suspension, that no evidence was offered that any consideration under Tex. R. of Disciplinary Procedure 3.10 was violated, and it

was a judicial abuse of discretion to impose a public reprimand of two years plus six months suspension – even with credit for time served. Younes joins in the request that this Court find that former Disciplinary Assistant Counsel Tim Bersch committed prosecutorial misconduct, and that the *Thompson Decision*, 455. S. W. 2nd 569 (Tex. 2014) should be followed to invalidate the period of the sanction. The Court should allow oral argument, and if a finding of no sanction is not imposed, then the Court should return the Case for an appropriate Sanction Hearing.

In conclusion and in reference to the attached letter, Ali Younes joins thousands of other Texas attorneys in requesting that the case be set for Oral Argument and if no Sanction is not entered by this Court that it be returned for a new Sanction Hearing. A previous letter dated December 17, 2014 is also attached.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Robert S. Bennett
Robert S. Bennett

By: /s/ Ali Younes
Ali Younes

CC: Ali Younes

CC: Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel

See Attachments – Ali Younes –CURRENT Letter to the Court, Ali Younes –PAST Letter to the Court, Ali Younes -RESUME

Ali Younes-CURRENT-Letter to the Court:

Ali Younes
14614 Bradford Colony
Dr. Houston, TX 77084
713-344-4149 (phone)

Honorable Christopher A. Pine, Clerk Fourteenth Court of Appeals
301 Fannin Street, Suite 245
Houston, Texas 77002
RE: Robert S. Bennett, Appellant. V. Commission for Lawyer Discipline, Appellee
On Appeal from the 344th District Court, Harris County, Texas Cause No. 2013-56866,

Dear Mr. Pine:

I am writing for the sole purpose of defending my dear friend and mentor, Bob Bennett. I request that no sanction be given to Mr. Bennett. I have known Mr. Bennett for 10 years and he is reason why I wanted to become an Attorney. He gave me my first internship and taught me everything I know. The most important thing that I learned from my time with him is to always possess moral values in the practice of law. The accusations against him are baseless and stipulated in technicality that truly treats him unfairly in the court of law.

I am formally requesting that all sanctions against him be lifted immediately. Ever since I knew Mr. Bennett; I have gained nothing but respect for him and admired him more when I started law school because it reconfirmed his teachings to me and standards that he worked by.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Ali Younes

Ali Younes

Thurgood Marshall School of Law
J.D. Candidate Class of 2019

Ali Younes-PAST-Letter to the Court

Ali Younes
6306 Timbo lane
Houston TX, 77041

December 17th, 2014

Robert S. "Bob" Bennett
Licensing Services for Professionals
15333 JFK Blvd. Suite 100
Houston, Texas 77032

RE: An Experience Worthwhile

I had the opportunity to intern with Mr. Bennett while I was a student at the University of Houston and it was an experience that benefitted me greatly. I always wanted to become an attorney but had zero knowledge of the field or what exactly an attorney's day consisted of. I was a first generation college student and I had nobody in my family that practiced law so I truly needed a mentor to guide me in to the career. Mr. Bennett put me under his wing for more than a year and allowed me to experience the different aspects of being an attorney at law. I was educated about things that ranged from how discovery is used in a trial to how a law office is properly managed. As I gained knowledge and experience, Mr. Bennett hired me on part time with more responsibilities. I was given the chance to complete legal research, which is one of the most essential tasks as an attorney as it can make or break a case. I was even given access to the different legal databases. This gave me an advantage over other students heading into law school. During my time at the firm, I visited multiple courts and eventually was able to distinguish between them and why each case would follow under their jurisdiction. Overtime, I gained Mr. Bennett's trust and was granted to write for the firm's monthly newsletter, which helped me developed my writing and gave me the chance to display my legal research skills.

Starting out with Mr. Bennett, the most legal experience I had previously was watching a season of Law & Order. After my time at the firm, I could confidently say that I wanted to become an attorney. I knew the commitment and hard work it would take to become a lawyer, yet I was never more sure of what I wanted to do. Interning with Mr. Bennett was one of the best decisions I made. He was able to provide me with a real world experience of what I would be expecting as an attorney at law. Mr. Bennett didn't hold back during my time at the firm. He invited me to multiple legal social events and shared his knowledge with me whenever he saw the opportunity that would benefit me. I know lawyers get a bad rep for their unethical practices but I can proudly say that I worked for somebody that was more than fair to his clients and his staff. Mr. Bennett was a true role model for me heading into the legal field.

Sincerely

Ali Younes

:

Ali Younes-RESUME:

Ali Younes

14614 Bradford Colony Dr.
Houston, Texas 77084
(713)-344-4149
aliyounesr@gmail.com

Education:

Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law | Houston, TX May 2019
Juris Doctor

- Dean's List (Fall 2017- Spring 2018)
- Student Bar Association member

University of Houston | Houston, TX May 2013
Dual Bachelors of Arts in Communications and Political Science, magna cum laude, 3.73 GPA

- Dean's List (Fall 2011-Spring 2013)
- Honors Society (2011-2013)

Experience:

Holland Services/ Purple Land Management | Houston, TX June 2017-Present
Landman

- Researched and provided documentation of leases, rights-of-way, joint ventures, and other types of oil and gas agreements for clients.
- Created and organized supplement title reports for clients that displayed any deviations of mineral rights from subject property.
- Worked on multiple different geological shales, including the Marcellus, Utica, and Eagle Ford shales.

City of Houston | Houston, TX Spring 2017 Semester
City Council Intern (Larry Green -District K)

- Accompanied Council Member in public and private sessions
- Coordinated internal communication project that modernized all the contacts in the district.
- Assisted constituents within our district with concerns or problems they have that dealt with any part of the municipality.

Keller Williams | Houston, TX March 2015-September 2016
Realtor

- Rented, bought, and sold residential and commercial property for clients.
- Studied property listings, interviewed prospective clients, accompanied clients to property site, discussed conditions of sale, and drew up real estate contracts.
- Awarded "Rookie of the Month" based on number of active clients.

The Bennett Law Firm | Houston, TX June 2011-January 2013
Legal Intern/Assistant

- Conducted legal research and drafted legal documents, prepared court pleadings, and cases.
- Worked and published articles for the firm's newsletter that consisted of legal matters on monthly bases.
- Organized case files and maintained legal agreements, as well as to file court documents online.

Volunteer Activities and Interests

- Active Texas real estate license (2015-present)
- Star of Hope, volunteer (2010 -Present)
- Elderly Home Care volunteer member (2012-present)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on October 27, 2018, a copy of this letter was served on the parties listed below by electronic service and that the electronic transmission was reported as complete.

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/s/ Robert S. Bennett

Robert S. Bennett

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