

**BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

**PANEL C**

IN RE: **JENNIFER K. OWENS**

Arkansas Bar ID #2000139

CPC Docket No. 2002-074

**FINDINGS & CONSENT ORDER OF DISCIPLINE**

The formal charges of misconduct upon which this Consent Order is premised, involving respondent attorney Jennifer K. Owens of Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas, arose from information brought to the attention of the Committee on Professional Conduct in 2002 by Mary Bobrowski.

Following Respondent Attorney's receipt of the formal complaint, the attorney entered into discussion with the Executive Director which has resulted in an agreement to discipline by consent pursuant to Section 20.B of the Arkansas Supreme Court Procedures Regulating Professional Conduct of Attorneys at Law (2002). Upon consideration of the formal complaint and attached exhibits, admissions made by the respondent attorney, the terms of the written consent, the approval of Panel C of the Committee on Professional Conduct, and the Arkansas Model Rules of Professional Conduct, the Committee on Professional Conduct finds:

1. That Ms. Owens' conduct violated Model Rule 1.3 when she represented her client, Mary Bobrowski, in a post-divorce hearing on October 15, 2001, and failed to provide her client with the order issued from that hearing. Model Rule 1.3 requires that a lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client.
2. That Ms. Owens' conduct violated Model Rule 1.4(a), in that since the court hearing in Ms. Bobrowski's matter on October 15, 2001, in spite of her many requests, Ms. Owens failed to communicate with her client about the status of the client's matter, including failing to provide the client a copy of the order issued from said hearing. Model Rule 1.4(a) requires that a lawyer shall keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter and promptly comply with reasonable requests for information.
3. That Ms. Owens' conduct violated Model Rule 1.16(d), when, in the Fall of 2001, she terminated her private practice without notice to her client, Mary Bobrowski, and later failed to honor the client's request for the return of her papers she gave to Ms. Owens, and for her file, or a copy of it. Model Rule 1.16(d) requires, in pertinent part, that upon termination of representation, an attorney shall take steps to the extent reasonably practicable to protect the client's interests, such as giving reasonable notice to the client, allowing time for employment of other counsel, and surrendering papers and property to which the client is entitled.
4. That Ms. Owens' conduct violated Model Rule 8.4(c) in that on May 16, 2002, she advised the Executive Director of the Office of Professional Conduct that she had mailed a letter to Mary Bobrowski about this matter. Ms. Owens did not send one. Prior to May 28, 2002, Ms. Owens represented to the Executive Director that she was going to the law office of her former employer, where she worked when Mary Bobrowski was her client, to get the Bobrowski office file. The Affidavit of Ms. Owens' former employer indicates he is familiar with all files she left in his care when she departed, and that in May 2002 no file for Mary Bobrowski was in his office, and that, to the knowledge of the attorney and his office staff, Ms. Owens had not returned to his office for any purpose since she left in late December 2001. Model Rule 8.4(c) requires, in pertinent part, that a lawyer shall not engage in conduct involving misrepresentation.

WHEREFORE, in accordance with the consent to discipline presented by Ms. Owens and the Executive Director, it is the decision and order of the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct that Respondent Jennifer K. Owens, Arkansas Bar No. 2000139, be, and she hereby is, CAUTIONED for her conduct in this matter.

ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT COMMITTEE

ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT - PANEL C

By \_\_\_\_\_

David Newbern, Chairperson

Date \_\_\_\_\_