

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE  
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION  
FILE NO.: 13 SPC 499

2014 DEC 19 P 12:31

IN THE MATTER OF  
SAM DREWES RYAN

NEW HANOVER COUNTY, N.C.  
BY \_\_\_\_\_ )  
ORDER

This cause coming on to be heard upon the Motion of Stephen E. Culbreth, attorney for Respondent Sam Drewes Ryan, and being heard before the Honorable W. Allen Cobb, Jr., Senior Resident Superior Court Judge for the Fifth Judicial District, and it appearing to the Court that:

1. Sam Drewes Ryan had previously been transferred to consensual inactive status.
2. That Franklin E. Martin ("Trustee") was appointed as trustee of Sam Drewes Ryan's law practice.
3. That the North Carolina State Bar has completed an audit of Sam Drewes Ryan's trust and fiduciary accounts and that said accounts are in all respects in order.
4. That Sam Drewes Ryan and her counsel cooperated fully with Trustee in obtaining possession of the client files and her trust account, and with the North Carolina State Bar in conducting said audit.
5. That Sam Drewes Ryan has fully cooperated with the Lawyers Assistance Program and its director Robin Moraites and other authorized representatives.
6. That Sam Drewes Ryan has been in an ongoing program of counseling with Dr. George Gates and has cooperated fully with Dr. Gates.

A TRUE COPY  
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT  
NEW HANOVER COUNTY  
BY: *Jessica Simmons*  
Asst. Clerk of Superior Court

7. That the North Carolina State Bar, the Lawyers Assistance Program of the North Carolina State Bar and Trustee are all satisfied that Sam Drewes Ryan has fully complied with the Order previously entered by the Court placing her on consensual inactive status.

8. Dr. George Gates stated that in his professional opinion Sam Drewes Ryan is mentally, emotionally and physically capable to return to the active practice of law; however, he believes that she will benefit by continuing periodic counseling sessions with him.

9. That the Lawyers Assistance Program and the North Carolina State Bar have no reason to believe that Sam Drewes Ryan is not able to return to the active practice of law.

10. Sam Drewes Ryan's trust account has a balance of \$4,851.57 according to the 3 December 2014 statement from First Citizens Bank. The audit conducted by the North Carolina State Bar identified the clients who had balances in the trust account. The balances for some of those clients constitute fees owed to Sam Drewes Ryan. Sam Drewes Ryan has agreed to justify the fees she has earned for those clients to the North Carolina State Bar.

11. That Trustee is in the position to return the care, custody and control of the trust account to Sam Drewes Ryan, and he has no reason to question the audit of the trust account conducted by the North Carolina State Bar save and except a discrepancy of approximately \$5.00.

BASED UPON THE FOREGOING FINDING OF FACTS, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Sam Drewes Ryan will benefit from continuing her therapy with Dr. George Gates, and she is directed to do so as long as Dr. Gates believes the therapy will be beneficial.

2. That Sam Drewes Ryan is hereby returned to the active status as a practicing attorney duly licensed by the North Carolina State Bar.

3. Within seven (7) days of entry of this Order, Sam Drewes Ryan shall provide Trustee and the North Carolina State Bar with a telephone number and mailing address for her to be reached by former clients who may contact Trustee in the future and to resolve any remaining issues with the North Carolina State Bar.

4. Trustee is authorized to take such actions as are necessary to return all of Sam Drewes Ryan's client files in his possession to the care, custody and control of Sam Drewes Ryan. Sam Drewes Ryan shall cooperate fully with Trustee's efforts to return the client files to her.

5. Sam Drewes Ryan shall be responsible for obtaining her client files currently in the care, custody and control of Wilmington Record Center. Trustee has no responsibility regarding those files in the possession of Wilmington Record Center.

6. Trustee is further authorized to take such actions as are necessary to return Sam Drewes Ryan's trust account to the care, custody and control of Sam Drewes Ryan. Sam Drewes Ryan shall cooperate fully with Trustee's efforts to return the trust account to her care, custody and control.

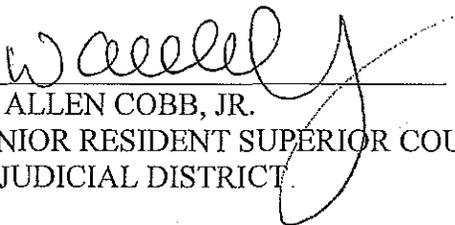
7. Trustee shall deliver all client files and records of the trust account in his possession to Sam Drewes Ryan at a location in Wilmington, NC designated by her. Sam Drewes Ryan shall provide Trustee with this location of delivery within ten (10) days of

entry of this Order. In the event Sam Drewes Ryan fails to provide a location, Trustee shall deliver client files and records of the trust account to the office of Sam Drewes Ryan's counsel. Trustee and Sam Drewes Ryan shall agree on a mutually acceptable time for the transfer of client files and records, but said transfer shall be made within thirty (30) days of entry of this Order.

8. Upon returning Sam Drewes Ryan's client files and trust account to Sam Drewes Ryan, the Trustee shall be forever relieved and discharged from all duties, obligations and/or liabilities, of any nature whatsoever, with respect to, in connection with or arising out of this matter. Trustee is authorized to file a Notice of Discharge, which shall be served on all parties to this matter, confirming that Respondent's law practice has been returned to her and that his role and service as Trustee has been discharged in full.

9. Sam Drewes Ryan shall cooperate fully with the North Carolina State Bar to resolve any remaining issues with the North Carolina State Bar.

SO ORDERED on this 19 day of December, 2014.

  
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W. ALLEN COBB, JR.  
SENIOR RESIDENT SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE  
5<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT