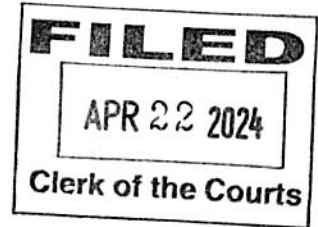


**BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT
PANEL B**

**IN RE: WILLIAM MCNOVA HOWARD
ARKANSAS BAR ID #87087
CPC Docket No. 2024-002**



CONSENT FINDINGS AND ORDER

The formal charges of misconduct upon which this Findings and Order is based arose from a grievance filed by Joshua Lasley. William McNova Howard, of Pine Bluff, Arkansas is an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Arkansas and assigned Bar Number 87087.

1. Howard represented Lasley in a jury trial on murder charges for which Lasley was found guilty and sentenced to life.
2. On April 8, 2023, Howard filed the Notice of Appeal and Designation of Record.
3. On July 13, 2023, Howard filed the Motion to Proceed In Forma Pauperis, with the court granting the motion the same day. Howard took no further action in the matter.
4. No appeal has been filed with the Arkansas Supreme Court Clerk on Lasley's behalf, and Lasley has lost his ability to have his appeal heard.

Upon consideration of the formal complaint, attached exhibit materials, consent agreement between Respondent Howard and Executive Director Ballard, and and the Arkansas Rules of Professional Conduct, Panel B of the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct finds:

1. That Howard's conduct violated Rule 1.1 when he failed to take any action on his client's behalf after filing a notice of appeal. Howard failed to perfect the appeal with the Arkansas Supreme Court Clerk. Arkansas Rule 1.1 states a lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client. Competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness, and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation.

2. That Howard's conduct violated Rule 1.3 when he failed to take any action on his client's appeal. Arkansas Rule 1.3 states a lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client.

3. That Howard's conduct violated Rule violated Rule 3.2 when he failed to take any action on his client's appeal after filing the Notice of Appeal and Designation of Record. Arkansas Rule 3.2 states a lawyer shall make reasonable efforts to expedite litigation consistent with the interests of the client.

4. That Howard's conduct violated Rule 8.4(d) when he failed to perfect his client's appeal, denying his client the ability to have his appeal heard before the appellate court. Arkansas Rule 8.4(d) states that it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice.

5. That pursuant to Section 20.B Howard and OPC, through its Executive Director, have in good faith offered and accepted a proposed discipline by consent agreement.

6. That Howard's license to practice law in the State of Arkansas was suspended by the Committee on Professional Conduct through it's Panel B for a period of **TWELVE (12) MONTHS** for his conduct in CPC-2023-025 effective January 23, 2024.

WHEREFORE, it is the decision and order of the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct, acting through its authorized Panel B, that William McNova Howard Arkansas Bar ID #87087, be, and hereby is, **SUSPENDED for his conduct in this matter to run concurrent with his suspension in CPC-2023-025**. Upon completion of the term of suspension and reinstatement to the practice of law, Howard has agreed and shall no longer provide any appellate work in his practice. This consent Findings and Order was based upon the written consent agreement between Howard and the OPC through its Executive Director, Lisa

Ballard, and the Committee on Professional Conduct's acceptance, through its Panel B, of the consent agreement.

ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT
COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

By: 
LeAnne P. Burch, Chair, Panel B

Date: 18 April 2024