

GREGORY O. LAWSON

(Suspension, Withheld Suspension and Probation)

On May 20, 2022, the Idaho Supreme Court issued a Disciplinary Order suspending Caldwell attorney, Gregory O. Lawson, from the practice of law for five years, with two years of that suspension withheld, and a two-year probation upon any reinstatement to active status.

The Idaho Supreme Court found that Mr. Lawson violated I.R.P.C. 1.2(a) [Failure to Abide by Client Objectives], 1.3 [Failure to Act with Reasonable Diligence and Promptness], 1.4 [Failure to Reasonably Communicate with Client], 4.1 [In the Course of Representing a Client, Making a False Statement of Material Fact to a Third Person], 8.4(c) [Engaging in Conduct Involving Dishonesty, Fraud, Deceit or Misrepresentation], 8.4(d) [Engaging in Conduct Prejudicial to the Administration of Justice], 8.1(a) [Knowingly Making False Statements of Material Fact to Bar Counsel in Connection with a Disciplinary Matter], and 8.1(a) [Knowingly Making False Statements of Material Fact to the Professional Conduct Board in Connection with a Disciplinary Matter] with respect to his representation of a client in a lawsuit to collect on a loan debt. In that case, Mr. Lawson obtained a default judgment against the debtor on behalf of his client, but then failed to take the steps necessary to secure a writ of execution, request the sheriff to execute on it, request and schedule a debtor's exam or proceed with garnishment against the debtor. Mr. Lawson failed to inform his client that he failed to take any of these steps and made false statements to his client and the client's proxy about the status of the matter, claiming that he had completed legal work which he had not. After Mr. Lawson's client filed a grievance against him with the Idaho State Bar, Mr. Lawson made false statements to Bar Counsel about the work he performed on his client's behalf. In addition, during the requested review of Bar Counsel's disposition Mr. Lawson made false statements to the Hearing Committee of the Professional Conduct Board. Those statements were made in connection with this disciplinary matter.

The Idaho Supreme Court's Disciplinary Order followed a stipulated resolution of an Idaho State Bar discipline case in which Mr. Lawson admitted that he violated these Idaho Rules of Professional Conduct.

The Disciplinary Order provided that upon reinstatement to active status after the three-year actual period of suspension, Mr. Lawson will serve a two-year probation subject to the terms and conditions of probation specified in the Order. Those conditions include that Mr. Lawson will serve two years of suspension if he admits or is found to have violated any of the Idaho Rules of Professional Conduct for which a public sanction is imposed for any conduct during his period of probation. In addition, Mr. Lawson must arrange for a supervising attorney to supervise his law practice during the probationary period.

Inquiries about this matter may be directed to: Bar Counsel, Idaho State Bar, P.O. Box 895, Boise, Idaho 83701, (208) 334-4500.