

FILE NO. A10-851

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

In Re Petition for Disciplinary Action
against TRENT CHRISTOPHER JONAS,
a Minnesota Attorney,
Registration No. 258738.

**STIPULATION FOR VACATING
PRIOR ORDER AND FOR
DISCIPLINE**

THIS STIPULATION is entered into by and between Martin A. Cole, Director of the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility, hereinafter Director, and Trent Christopher Jonas, attorney, hereinafter respondent.

WHEREAS, respondent has concluded it is in respondent's best interest to enter into this stipulation,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the undersigned as follows:

1. Respondent's license to practice law is currently suspended pursuant to an order of the Minnesota Supreme Court dated October 20, 2010. *In re Jonas*, 789 N.W.2d 687 (Minn. 2010).
2. The suspension of respondent's license to practice law was predicated on an April 15, 2010, petition for disciplinary action filed by the Director.
3. In May 2010 the Director filed a stipulation for discipline with the Court in which respondent agreed that his misconduct with respect to the operations of two title companies he owned violated Rule 8.4(c), Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct (MRPC). In presenting supporting information regarding the stipulation for discipline to the Court, it was specifically noted that respondent had not been criminally charged as a result of his misconduct. At the time of the submissions to the Court, both the Director and respondent mistakenly believed that no criminal proceedings were pending, contemplated, or imminent.
4. On December 30, 2010, respondent pled guilty in the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota to two felony counts of wire fraud and engaging in a

monetary transaction in criminally derived property in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1343 and 1957.

5. The Director and respondent agree that the absence of criminal charges brought against respondent as a result of his misconduct was a significant factor in agreeing to the stipulation for discipline presented to the Court in May 2010 and that the stipulation was based in significant part on the mistaken understanding of the parties that no criminal proceedings were pending, contemplated, or imminent.

6. The Director and respondent agree that, in light of the criminal charges brought subsequent to the filing of the stipulation for discipline, it is appropriate to reconsider the discipline imposed in this matter.

7. Respondent acknowledges receipt of the Director's January 6, 2011, petition to vacate prior order and for imposition of additional discipline and does not contest or object to the relief sought by the Director in that petition.

8. Respondent hereby agrees to the vacating of the Court's October 20, 2010, order in this matter and, again, unconditionally admits the allegations of the April 15, 2010, petition for disciplinary action and further admits that the misconduct outlined therein also violates Rule 8.4(b), MRPC.

9. Respondent understands that he has the right to contest the reopening of this matter and the imposition of additional discipline. Respondent waives these rights, which include the right to a hearing on the Director's petition; to have a referee make findings and conclusions and a recommended disposition; to contest such findings and conclusions; and to a hearing before the Supreme Court upon the record, briefs and arguments.

10. The Director and respondent join in recommending that the appropriate discipline in light of respondent's guilty plea is disbarment pursuant to Rule 15, Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility (RLPR).

11. Respondent understands that based upon these admissions, this Court may impose any of the sanctions set forth in Rule 15(a)(1) - (9), RLPR, including making any disposition it deems appropriate. Respondent understands that by entering into

this stipulation, the Director is not making any representations as to the sanction the Court will impose.

12. This stipulation is entered into by respondent freely and voluntarily, without any coercion, duress or representations by any person except as contained herein.

13. Respondent hereby acknowledges receipt of a copy of this stipulation.

14. Respondent has been advised by the undersigned counsel concerning this stipulation and these proceedings generally.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties executed this stipulation on the dates indicated below.

Dated: January 6, 2011.


MARTIN A. COLE
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF LAWYERS
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
Attorney No. 148416
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(651) 296-3952

Dated: JANUARY 6, 2011.


PATRICK R. BURNS
FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Attorney No. 134004

Dated: 1/19, 2011.


TRENT CHRISTOPHER JONAS
RESPONDENT

Dated: 1/17/11, 2011.


ROGER L. KRAMER
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