

FILED

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

AUG 11 2017

Bar Docket No. 7452

DOUGLAS T. SHIMA
CLERK OF APPELLATE COURTS

In the Matter of STEPHEN M. JOSEPH,
Respondent.

ORDER TRANSFERRING RESPONDENT'S LICENSE
TO DISABILITY INACTIVE STATUS

On August 8, 2016, the Disciplinary Administrator filed a formal complaint with the Kansas Board for Discipline of Attorneys against the respondent, Stephen M. Joseph, an attorney admitted to the practice of law in the state of Kansas. The formal complaint was later amended on December 1, 2016, and March 1, 2017. The second amended formal complaint was scheduled to be heard September 25-27, 2017, in Wichita, Kansas.

On July 26, 2017, the respondent, filed a petition with the Supreme Court, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 220 (2017 Kan. S. Ct. R. 267) seeking to have his license be transferred to disability inactive status. In the petition, the respondent contends that he suffers from a disability by reason of mental illness which makes it impossible to adequately defend himself in the pending disciplinary proceedings. On July 26, 2017, the Disciplinary Administrator filed a response to the respondent's petition; the Disciplinary Administrator does not oppose the petition.

Supreme Court Rule 220(c) (2017 Kan. S. Ct. R. 268) provides:

"If, during the course of a disciplinary proceeding, the respondent contends he is suffering from a disability by reason of mental or physical infirmity or illness, . . . which makes it impossible for him to adequately defend himself, the Supreme Court shall thereupon enter an order immediately

transferring the respondent to disability inactive status until a determination is made of the respondent's capacity to continue to practice law in a proceeding instituted in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) above."

This court, having examined the petition and response, finds that the respondent's license to practice law should be transferred to disability inactive status. Supreme Court Rule 220(b) (2017 Kan. S. Ct. R. 267).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Stephen M. Joseph's license to practice law in Kansas be immediately transferred to disability inactive status and the pending disciplinary proceedings against respondent be held in abeyance until further order of the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 11th day of August, 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawton R. Nuss", is written above a horizontal line.

LAWTON R. NUSS
Chief Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court