

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

A22-0790

**FILED**

December 29, 2022

**OFFICE OF  
APPELLATE COURTS**

In re Petition for Disciplinary Action Against  
Staci L. Kelley, a Minnesota Attorney,  
Registration No. 0392358.

**O R D E R**

The Director of the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility has filed a petition for disciplinary action alleging that respondent Staci L. Kelley committed professional misconduct warranting public discipline. Specifically, the petition alleges that in her capacity as a partner in her law firm, respondent failed to have adequate measures governing the conduct of other lawyers, resulting in the firm's failure to keep the required trust account books and records, and failed to have adequate systems and policies in place to communicate the departure of a firm lawyer to a client and to ensure the safekeeping of client funds, the prompt refund of unearned fees, and the accounting of client funds. *See* Minn. R. Prof. Conduct 1.15(a), 1.15(h), as interpreted by Appendix 1, 5.1(a). The petition further alleges that respondent failed to attend a hearing, failed to file a notice of withdrawal, repeatedly failed to open documents served upon her and forward them to her client, failed to serve and file exhibit and witness lists and proposed findings by a court deadline, failed to communicate with two clients, and failed to cooperate with the Director. *See* Minn. R. Prof. Conduct 1.3, 1.4(a)(3)–(4), 1.16(d), 3.4(c), 8.1(b), 8.4(d); Rule 25, Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility (RLPR). Respondent did not respond to the

petition. On August 17, 2022, we issued an order deeming the allegations in the petition admitted. *See* Rule 13(b), RLPR. The parties were invited to submit memoranda on the appropriate discipline to be imposed; however, only the Director filed a memorandum on the issue of the appropriate discipline.

Based upon all the files, records, and proceedings herein,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent Staci L. Kelley is indefinitely suspended from the practice of law, effective 14 days from the date of this order, with no right to petition for reinstatement for 6 months.

2. Respondent may petition for reinstatement pursuant to Rule 18(a)–(d), RLPR. Reinstatement is conditioned on successful completion of the written examination required for admission to the practice of law by the State Board of Law Examiners on the subject of professional responsibility, *see* Rule 18(e)(2), RLPR; *see also* Rule 4.A.(5), Rules for Admission to the Bar (requiring evidence that an applicant has successfully completed the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination); and satisfaction of continuing legal education requirements, *see* Rule 18(e)(4), RLPR.

3. Respondent shall comply with Rule 26, RLPR (requiring notice of suspension to clients, opposing counsel, and tribunals), and shall pay \$900 in costs pursuant to Rule 24, RLPR.

Dated: December 29, 2022

BY THE COURT:



Natalie E. Hudson  
Associate Justice