



United States Tax Court

Washington, DC 20217

September 23, 2024

PRESS RELEASE

The Chief Judge of the United States Tax Court announced today that the following practitioner has been disbarred for reasons explained in the attached order.

1. Scott Allan Chappelle



United States Tax Court

Washington, DC 20217

In the Matter of
Scott Allan Chappelle

ORDER OF DISBARMENT

Mr. Chappelle was admitted to practice before this Court on July 17, 1992, based on a certificate of good standing from the State Bar of Michigan.

On April 25, 2022, Mr. Chappelle pleaded guilty to and was convicted of one count of attempt to evade or defeat payment of tax, in violation of 26 U.S.C. § 7201, in the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan, case no. 1:20-cr-79. Mr. Chappelle's conviction was based on his attempts to evade collection of federal income, Social Security, and Medicare taxes withheld from the wages of employees of a real estate company that he managed. On October 11, 2022, Mr. Chappelle was sentenced to 38 months of imprisonment to be followed by three years of supervised release. He was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$1,233,836.48 as well as a fine of \$150,000. Mr. Chappelle appealed his sentence to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. On August 15, 2023, the Sixth Circuit affirmed the District Court's judgment. Mr. Chappelle was incarcerated and later released on February 27, 2024, according to information available on the official website of the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Pursuant to Michigan Court Rule 9.120(B)(1), Mr. Chappelle's license to practice law in Michigan was automatically suspended, effective as of the date of his felony conviction. Effective July 22, 2023, the State of Michigan Attorney Discipline Board Ingham County Hearing Panel #3 ordered that he be disbarred from the practice of law in Michigan by consent.

1. Order of Interim Suspension and to Show Cause

This Court issued an Order of Interim Suspension and to Show Cause (IS-OSC) to Mr. Chappelle on April 26, 2024, affording him the opportunity to show cause why he should not be suspended or disbarred from practice before the Court or otherwise disciplined and to appear at a hearing concerning proposed discipline. See Rule 202(c), Tax Court Rules of Practice and Procedure. The IS-OSC was shipped by Federal Express to Mr. Chappelle's address of record with the Court. It was returned by FedEx to the Court building on May 7, 2024. Mr. Chappelle failed to respond to the IS-OSC and thereby waived his right to a hearing.

Served 09/23/24

2. Relevant Rules & Standards of Conduct

a. *Rule 202(b), U.S. Tax Court Rules of Practice and Procedure*

A member of the Bar of this Court who has been convicted of any felony is required to report, in writing, such conviction no later than 30 days after the entry of the judgment of conviction. Rule 202(b), U.S. Tax Court Rules of Practice and Procedure. Mr. Chappelle failed to report his felony conviction to the Court in writing within 30 days in violation of Rule 202(b).

A member of the Bar of this Court is required to report, in writing, imposition of discipline by another court of whose Bar an attorney is a member, or disbarment or suspension from practice before an agency of the United States Government exercising professional disciplinary jurisdiction, no later than 30 days after the entry of the order of discipline. Rule 202(b), U.S. Tax Court Rules of Practice and Procedure. Mr. Chappelle failed to report to the Court in writing within 30 days the automatic interim suspension of his license to practice law in Michigan or the order of disbarment issued by the State of Michigan Attorney Discipline Board Ingham County Hearing Panel #3, in violation of Rule 202(b).

b. *Rule 202(a)(1), U.S. Tax Court Rules of Practice and Procedure*

A member of the Bar of this Court may be disciplined by this Court as a result of conviction of a felony in any court of the United States. Rule 202(a)(1), U.S. Tax Court Rules of Practice and Procedure. Mr. Chappelle was convicted of a felony in the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan.

c. *Rule 202(a)(2), U.S. Tax Court Rules of Practice and Procedure*

A member of the Bar of this Court may be disciplined by this Court as a result of imposition of discipline by any other court of whose Bar an attorney is a member. Rule 202(a)(2), U.S. Tax Court Rules of Practice and Procedure. Mr. Chappelle has been issued an automatic interim suspension of his law license and disbarred by the State of Michigan Attorney Discipline Board Ingham County Hearing Panel #3.

Upon due consideration of the foregoing, it is

ORDERED that the Court's IS-OSC, issued on April 26, 2024, is made absolute in that, under the provisions of Rule 202, U.S. Tax Court Rules of Practice and Procedure, Mr. Chappelle is disbarred from practice before the United States Tax Court until further order of the Court. It is further

ORDERED that, pursuant to Rule 202(f)(2), U.S. Tax Court Rules of Practice and Procedure, Mr. Chappelle may not resume practice before this Court until reinstated by order of this Court. It is further

ORDERED that Mr. Chappelle's name is stricken from the list of practitioners who are admitted to practice before the United States Tax Court, and that, until reinstated, Mr. Chappelle is prohibited from holding himself out as a member of the Bar of the United States Tax Court. It is further

ORDERED that Mr. Chappelle's practitioner access to case files maintained by the Court in electronic form, if any access was given to him, is revoked. It is further

ORDERED that the Court will file orders to withdraw Mr. Chappelle as counsel in any pending cases in which he appears as counsel of record. It is further

ORDERED that Mr. Chappelle shall, within 30 days of service of this Order upon him, surrender to this Court his certificate of admission to practice before this Court.

By the Court:

(Signed) Kathleen Kerrigan
Chief Judge