

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA  
BOARD OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL  
COUNSELORS

IN THE MATTER OF: )  
 )  
ANGELA D. SEABROOKS, )  
Petitioner. )  
 )

**FINAL DECISION**

The North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors (the "Board") heard this cause on 1 March 2019. A Notice of Hearing was served on Petitioner on 8 February 2019, notifying her that the hearing would take place on 1 March 2019, at 10:00 am, or as soon thereafter as possible, at the Office of the Board of Licensed Professional Counselors at 7D Terrace Way, Greensboro, North Carolina. Petitioner was present and represented herself. Alesia Balshakova, Assistant Attorney General, appeared on behalf of the Board.

At the hearing of this matter, the Board heard testimony from Petitioner and accepted exhibits into evidence in a public session. After hearing the closing arguments, the Board retired into an executive session to deliberate, during which deliberations it made the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Board finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the following facts are true and relevant:

1. On or about 23 January 2018, Petitioner applied for licensure as Licensed Professional Counselor Associate ("LPCA"). (Board Exhibit 2; T p 8).
2. In Petitioner's application for licensure as an LPCA, Petitioner responded to the question about whether she ever had any disciplinary action taken against an occupational license or certificate to practice in the affirmative. (Board Exhibit 3; T p 18). Petitioner also responded in the affirmative to the question about whether she ever had been convicted of a violation of/or pled *nolo condendere* to any federal, state, or local statute, regulation or ordinance or entered into any plea bargain for violations, except for minor traffic violations. (Board Exhibit 3; T p 20).
3. Specifically, in her application, Petitioner disclosed the disciplinary action taken against her law license by the North Carolina State Bar in 2005, and her criminal convictions which resulted from two embezzlement charges in 2006 and 2010. (Board Exhibits 2 and 3; T pp 18-20)
4. Both charges arose from her real estate practice in 2004 and 2005, which was fourteen to fifteen years ago. (T p 9)
5. Petitioner had no other criminal record other than minor traffic offenses. (T p 9)

6. As a result of Petitioner's criminal convictions for embezzlement in 2006 and 2010, and Petitioner's disbarment from the practice of law, the Board proposed to deny Petitioner's application for licensure as an LPCA. (Board Exhibit 2)
7. Petitioner requested a hearing as a result of the proposed denial. (Petitioner Exhibit 1; T pp 7-8)
8. Petitioner was provided notice of hearing on 8 February 2019. (Board Exhibit 1)
9. At the hearing, Petitioner testified that she became licensed by the North Carolina State Bar to practice law in 2001. (Board Exhibit 3; T pp 18, 21).
10. In 2005, while Petitioner was a solo practitioner and practicing law as a real estate closing attorney in Greensboro, Guilford County, her boyfriend at the time took her clients' money from her trust account. (Board Exhibit 3; T pp 10, 11, 12, 18, 21). Petitioner had been dating her boyfriend for about six or seven months before the occurrence, and he had been sharing office space with her. (T pp 11, 13)
11. Petitioner explained that her clients' checks were in an unsecured safe in her office, and the boyfriend took the checks and signed her name on them. (T pp 12-13, 19)
12. When Petitioner learned that the money had been taken from her trust account, she confronted the boyfriend, but did not alert the police or the State Bar because he initially promised to return the money. (T pp 8, 14-15) However, afterwards, in response to her requests to return the money, the boyfriend began to threaten and blackmail her. (T pp 8, 11, 12, 15)
13. After the boyfriend demanded more money, Petitioner allowed him to have about seven or eight more checks that belonged to her clients. (T pp 15-16) Petitioner testified that this pattern continued for "probably a couple of months." (T p 16)
14. When she realized that the boyfriend would not return the money, Petitioner reported the issue to the State Bar and met with the District Attorney to explain what had occurred. (T pp 8, 11, 15)
15. She explained that as a result of the boyfriend's threats, she was concerned for her safety and the safety of her mother. (T p 12) For this reason, she never disclosed the boyfriend's identity to the law enforcement, but instead chose to plead guilty so she "could get the money paid back." (T pp 11, 16-17)
16. Petitioner had to surrender her law license and pled guilty to embezzlement. (T p 8)
17. She was placed on probation for three years and was given an opportunity to make restitution to the Courts. (T p 8)

18. After her probation had ended, she learned that one of her files which had been affected was not included in the original charge. (T p 8) In 2010, she again pled guilty, was placed on probation a second time, and was provided an opportunity to make restitution payments to the Court. (T pp 8-9)

19. Petitioner testified that the total restitution was paid back into the court, which according to her testimony, was "close to a hundred and fifty thousand" dollars. (T pp 11, 22)

20. At the hearing, Petitioner explained that she was ashamed of her decision and disheartened that she embarrassed her profession regarding the occurrences in 2004 and 2005, and that she immediately took steps to pay restitution. (T p 9)

21. She also testified that she had been in the mental health field for over thirty years in various roles, including working in residential treatment programs, volunteering, providing wellness support and training services, and becoming a certified professional life coach. (T p 9; Petitioner Exhibit 1)

22. Petitioner also obtained her master's degree in professional counseling and is entering the dissertation phase to obtain her doctorate in education and community care and counseling which is specializing in traumatology. (T pp 9-10; Petitioner Exhibit 1)

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

I. The Board has jurisdiction of the subject matter of this contested case and over the Petitioner.

II. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-340(a)(1), the Board may deny licensure or place on probation, limit practice, or require examination, remediation, or rehabilitation, to an applicant who has been convicted of a felony or entered a plea of guilty or *nolo contendere* to any felony charge under the laws of the United States or of any state of the United States.

III. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-340(a)(6), the Board may deny licensure, or place on probation, limit practice, or require examination, remediation, or rehabilitation, to an applicant who has been disciplined by another licensing or certification board for conduct which would subject him or her to discipline by this Board.

IV. The Board has taken into consideration the eight factors under N.C. Gen. Stat § 93B-8.1 (b) in reaching its decision in this case.

V. Petitioner's conduct violated N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-340(a)(1), which alone warrants the conditions placed on her licensure by the Board.

VI. Petitioner's conduct violated N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-340(a)(6), which alone warrants the conditions placed on her licensure by the Board.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS ORDERS:**

I. The application for licensure as Licensed Professional Counselor Associate of Petitioner, ANGELA D. SEABROOKS, is approved if she successfully completes the following:

- A. Petitioner shall undergo a mental health assessment with a mental health professional designated by the Board. The Board designates Perianne Davis, Ph.D., who may be reached at (919) 361-2029, 5107 Southpark Drive, Suite 203, Durham, NC 27713, to conduct the mental health assessment of Petitioner.
- B. Once Petitioner has completed the assessment, the Board will review the assessment report and, if the evaluator determined that Petitioner is fit to practice, she will be approved for licensure as an LPCA. If the evaluator does not determine that Petitioner is fit to practice as an LPCA or makes other recommendations, the Board may deny her licensure or impose conditions on her licensure as an LPCA.
- C. Petitioner shall follow all recommendations of the assessment by Dr. Davis and any additional conditions set forth by the Board.
- D. Petitioner shall take a master's-level Ethics Course from a graduate counseling program accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs ("CACREP").
- E. Petitioner shall complete all conditions listed in Paragraphs numbered A through D of this section within 12 months of the date of this decision.
- F. If Petitioner does not successfully complete the conditions set forth in Paragraphs A through E of this Section, she will be denied licensure and may reapply to the Board for licensure after one calendar year from the date of the denial, as set forth in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-340 (g).

II. The Board shall maintain this Final Decision as a public record pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 132-1 and 90-340 (f).

This the 7 day of June, 2019.

NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

BY: 

DENAUVO ROBINSON, ED.D., LPC  
BOARD CHAIRPERSON

## APPEAL

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 150B-45, any party wishing to appeal this Final Decision may commence their appeal by filing a Petition for Judicial Review in the superior court of the county where the person aggrieved by the administrative decision resides, or in the case of a person residing outside the State, in the county where the contested case which resulted in the final decision was filed. The party seeking review must file the petition within 30 days after being served with a written copy of this Final Decision.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

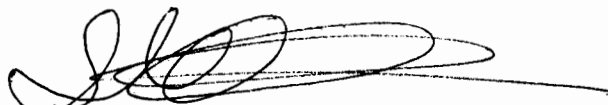
I, Stefon Plummer, do hereby certify that I have this day served a copy of the foregoing **FINAL DECISION** upon the following by depositing a copy of same in the United States mail, postage prepaid addressed as follows:

Angela Seabrooks  
918 South Main Street  
Burlington, NC 27215

I do further certify that I have this day served a copy of the foregoing upon the following by depositing a copy of same in the United States mail, first class, postage prepaid:

Alesia Balshakova  
Assistant Attorney General  
NC Department of Justice  
PO Box 629  
Raleigh, NC 27602-0629

This the 13 day of June, 2019.



Stefon Plummer  
Board Administrator