

**IN THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT
IN AND FOR THE STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE**

IN RE:) **C.A. No. JPCM-13-001**
RULE 57 REPRESENTATION)
OF CRAIG REEVES AND)
TAYLOR'S INCE)

Decision and Order

Upon referral by Judge Robert Wall, Jr. the Office of the Chief Magistrate initiated an investigation into the propriety of Mr. Reeves holding privileges to represent Taylor's Inc. under Delaware Supreme Court Rule 57. The specific allegation was that Mr. Reeves had a criminal record that would preclude his eligibility for Form 50 usage.

Upon receipt of the referral, on August 27, 2013 a letter was sent to Mr. Reeves indicating that his privileges were suspended and that he had an opportunity to present evidence as to why the privileges should not be revoked. On September 5th, Mr. Reeves responded, requesting a hearing. A show cause hearing was scheduled and held on October 22, 2013. This is my decision on the matter. For the reasons stated below, Mr. Reeves' privileges under Supreme Court Rule 57 are revoked.

The interests of the Court were represented by Ms. Jody Huber, staff attorney for the Justice of the Peace Court. Mr. Reeves represented himself. Ms. Huber presented a certified criminal history for Mr. Reeves, indicating that he had convictions for felony drug charges in 2010. These convictions took place before Mr. Reeves applied for a Form 50. In addition, Mr. Reeves was convicted of another felony in May of 2013, after he had been given Form 50 privileges.

The pertinent provisions of Supreme Court Rule 57 state that persons seeking the use of the limited right to practice law before the Justice of the Peace Court must sign an affidavit attesting that the named representative of the business "has not been convicted of a felony or a crime involving dishonesty or false statement" for at least ten years before their appearance before the Court. Supreme Court Rule 57(3)(b).


In the current situation it is clear from the record before me that Mr. Reeves not only has incurred a felony charge while authorized to use Form 50, but should not have been given that authority in the first place. Mr. Reeves' application for Rule 57 privileges contained false

information in that he attested that he had not been convicted of a felony in the prior ten years. The record of the 2010 conviction shows that he had, indeed, been convicted of a felony in that period.

Mr. Reeves argues that neither of his felony convictions are for crimes involving dishonesty, but this argument does not excuse the behavior in this case, as the rule states that those convicted of a “felony **OR** a crime involving dishonesty” are precluded from eligibility. Either type of crime is sufficient; the Rule does not require the conviction to be for a felony involving dishonesty.

Mr. Reeves’ Form 50 is hereby revoked. He may no longer represent this business or any other for which he might otherwise be qualified. His business, Taylor’s Inc., may be represented in Justice of the Peace Court proceedings only by an attorney or by another person who qualifies under Rule 57.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 4th day of November, 2013.



Alan G. Davis
Chief Magistrate