

IN THE ALABAMA COURT OF THE JUDICIARY

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOUGLAS L. PATTERSON
DISTRICT JUDGE
LIMESTONE COUNTY

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CASE NO. 55

FILED

AUG - 4 2020

COURT OF THE JUDICIARY
Rebecca C. Oates
Secretary

ORDER OF DISMISSAL WITHOUT PREJUDICE

On July 21, 2020, the Judicial Inquiry Commission filed a motion to dismiss this case without prejudice or, in the alternative, to stay this case until there is a resolution of criminal charges pending against the respondent in the Circuit Court of Limestone County, Alabama. There has been no response to the motion. At the time of this order, jury trials in Alabama have been suspended for several months because of the COVID-19 pandemic. I anticipate that when jury trials resume for criminal proceedings, courts may be required to first address cases against defendants who have been incarcerated awaiting trial or otherwise must be given scheduling priority based on other factors. Because of the many uncertainties that exist at this time, I cannot reasonably estimate the length of a stay of this judicial discipline case until a resolution of the criminal proceeding. Accordingly, the motion to dismiss filed by the Judicial Inquiry Commission is granted without prejudice for the reasons expressed in the motion. Costs of \$563.44 payable to the Judicial Inquiry Commission and \$430 payable to the Administrative Office of Courts (for court reporting fees in the COJ) are taxed to the respondent.

This the 4th day of August, 2020.

Scott Donaldson
Scott Donaldson
Chief Judge, Alabama Court of the Judiciary