

December 30 2009

*Ed Smith*  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA

Shaun R. Thompson  
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Office of Disciplinary Counsel

FILED

DEC 30 2009

*Ed Smith*  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

No. PR 06-0544

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IN RE PETITION FOR REINSTATEMENT  
TO THE STATE BAR OF MONTANA

ODC'S STATUS REPORT

Pursuant to the Court's Order filed December 23, 2009, Disciplinary Counsel provides the following status report.

On October 19, 2009, the Office of Disciplinary Counsel ("ODC") received a complaint from Teague J. Westrope, Billings Deputy City Attorney. The complaint concerns an appearance by Chris J. Nelson ("Nelson") in Billings Municipal Court while "suspended" from the practice of law. Nelson is being

1 represented in the disciplinary matter (ODC File No. 09-194) by attorney Robert L.  
2 Stephens, Jr.

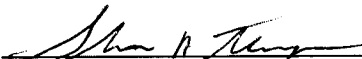
3 ODC has ascertained that in addition to being placed on inactive status on  
4 June 27, 2008 for noncompliance with CLE requirements, Nelson was also  
5 administratively suspended by the State Bar of Montana on or about July 3, 2008  
6 for non-payment of dues. Nelson, in November 2009, paid his arrearages.  
7

8 ODC has found five other cases in which Nelson appeared in Montana  
9 courts while ineligible to practice law.  
10

11 Rule 5.5, MRPC, states in part: "A lawyer shall not: (a) practice law in a  
12 jurisdiction where doing so violates the regulation of the legal profession in that  
13 jurisdiction[.]"  
14

15 ODC intends to submit this matter to a Review Panel of the Commission on  
16 Practice on January 21, 2010.

17 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 30<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2009.  
18  
19  
20


21   
22 Shaun R. Thompson  
23 Disciplinary Counsel  
24  
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## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2009, I served a copy of the foregoing document on the following persons by mailing a copy thereof, postage prepaid to:

Chris J. Nelson  
P.O. Box 23395  
Billings, MT 59104-3395

Robert L. Stephens, Jr.  
Attorney at Law  
P.O. Box 1438  
Billings, MT 59103-1438

  
Shaun R. Thompson  
Disciplinary Counsel