

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE,)	
COUNTY, MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES)	
COUNCIL 62 (AFSME COUNCIL 62))	
)	
COMPLAINANT)	
)	
v.)	CASE NO. 2004-00250
)	
AT&T COMMUNICATIONS OF THE)	
SOUTH CENTRAL STATES, LLC)	
)	
DEFENDANT)	

O R D E R

The American Federation of State, County, Municipal Employees Council 62 (“AFSME Council”) has filed a formal complaint with the Commission against AT&T Communications of the South Central States, LLC (“AT&T”). Roger Poer, the controller of AFSME Council, filed the complaint on behalf of AFSME Council. The complaint form contains a space for the Complainant to list its attorney’s name and address. In this space, AFSME Council listed Susan Crouch of Mooresville, Indiana. On information and belief, Ms. Crouch is not an attorney licensed to practice law in Kentucky. No attorney’s signature appears on the complaint.

No person may engage in the practice of law in Kentucky without first obtaining a license to practice. SCR 2.100. The practice of law is:

[A]ny service rendered involving legal knowledge or legal advice, whether of representation, counsel or advocacy in or out of court, rendered in respect to the rights, duties, obligations, liabilities, or business relations of one requiring the services.

Kentucky Supreme Court Rule 3.020. The practice of law includes, as Kentucky's highest court held in Kentucky State Bar Association v. Henry Vogt Machine Co., 416 S.W.2d 727 (Ky. 1967), the representation of a corporation before a state administrative agency.

As to its own proceedings, this Commission has adopted a similar position and has required that those representing the interests of others before us be licensed attorneys. In a previous case, the Commission ordered that:

[A]ny attorney who is not licensed to practice in the State of Kentucky and who seeks to represent a client or employer before this Commission must engage a member of the Kentucky Bar Association. It logically follows that if an unlicensed attorney may not represent a client before this Commission, neither may a layman.

Administrative Case No. 249, Practice Before the Commission by Attorneys Non-Licensed in the Commonwealth of Kentucky (Ky. P.S.C. June 15, 1981) at 2.

Commission regulations concerning formal complaints incorporate, at least in part, these sentiments. 807 KAR 5:001, Section 12(2), states in part: "Complaints by corporations or associations, or any other organization having the right to file a complaint, must be signed by its attorney and show his post office address" (emphasis added). The regulation requires that a corporation or other organization, from the outset of a complaint proceeding, be represented by an attorney.

Based on the above, the Commission finds that AFSME Council's complaint fails to comply with Kentucky law and should not be accepted for filing.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. AFSME Council should be permitted to file a complaint that complies with 807 KAR 5:001 within 10 days of the date of this Order.

2. If AFSME Council fails to submit a timely amended complaint that complies with this administrative regulation, such failure will result in the dismissal of this case without further Order.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 9th day of July, 2004.

By the Commission

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end, positioned above the text 'Executive Director'.

Executive Director

Case No. 2004-00250