

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Before the
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
Release No. 61584 / February 25, 2010

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING
File No. 3-13790

In the Matter of

Robert P. Copeland, Esq.

Respondent.

**ORDER OF FORTHWITH SUSPENSION
PURSUANT TO RULE 102(e)(2) OF THE
COMMISSION'S RULES OF PRACTICE**

I.

The Securities and Exchange Commission deems it appropriate to issue an order of forthwith suspension of Robert P. Copeland, Esq. ("Copeland") pursuant to Rule 102(e)(2) of the Commission's Rules of Practice [17 C.F.R. 200.102(e)(2)].¹

II.

The Commission finds that:

1. Copeland was an attorney admitted to practice law in Georgia.
2. On April 9, 2009, the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia ("USAO") filed a criminal information against Copeland, alleging one count of wire fraud. The information alleged that Copeland knowingly and willfully devised and intended to devise a "Ponzi" scheme to defraud investors of money and property by making materially false and fraudulent representations to investors. This conduct, according to the information, defrauded more than 125 individuals out of more than \$28 million.
3. On April 20, 2009, Copeland pled guilty to one count of wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. 1343— a crime that involves moral turpitude.

¹Rule 102(e)(2) provides in pertinent part: "Any attorney who has been suspended or disbarred by a court . . . of any State; or . . . [a]ny person who has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude shall be forthwith suspended from appearing or practicing before the Commission."

4. On June 8, 2009, the Supreme Court of Georgia ordered that the name of Robert P. Copeland be removed from the rolls of persons entitled to practice law in the State of Georgia pursuant to Georgia Bar Rule 4-227.
5. On September 21, 2009, a judgment was entered by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia against Copeland sentencing him to 121 months in federal prison, ordering him to pay \$31,861,360 in restitution, and directing that he serve a three year period of supervised release upon being released from prison.

III.

In view of the foregoing, the Commission finds that Copeland is an attorney who has been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude, as well as disbarred from the practice of law, within the meaning of Rule 102(e)(2) of the Commission's Rules of Practice. Accordingly, it is ORDERED, that Robert P. Copeland is forthwith suspended from appearing or practicing before the Commission pursuant to Rule 102(e)(2) of the Commission's Rules of Practice.

By the Commission.

Elizabeth M. Murphy
Secretary