Michael Raymond KEISLER v. STATE of Arkansas

CR 04-354

160 S.W.3d 346

Supreme Court of Arkansas Opinion delivered April 22, 2004

APPEAL & ERROR — MOTION FOR RULE ON CLERK — GOOD CAUSE FOR GRANTING. — An admission by an attorney for a criminal defendant that the record was tendered late due to a mistake on her part is good cause to grant a motion for rule on clerk.

Motion for Rule on Clerk; granted.

Phyllis J. Lemons, for appellant.

No response.

PER CURIAM. Appellant Michael Raymond Keisler, by and through his attorney, Phyllis J. Lemons, has filed a motion for rule on clerk. Ms. Lemons admits responsibility for failing to timely file the record due to a mistake on her part.

A judgment was entered against Mr. Keisler on August 25, 2003. He timely filed a notice of appeal on September 10, 2003, claiming that he had ordered the transcript of the circuit court record, but that it had not been tendered by his attorney, Ms. Lemons. The circuit court first extended Mr. Keisler's deadline for filing the transcript to February 6, 2004, and, again, to April 9, 2004. Ms. Lemons received the transcript from the circuit court on March 26, 2004, and tendered it to the Supreme Court Clerk's office on March 30, 2004. Because the March 25, 2004 deadline had expired, Ms. Lemons's transcript was untimely.

[1] We find that such an error, admittedly made by an attorney for a criminal defendant, is good cause to grant the motion. See In Re Belated Appeals in Criminal Cases, 265 Ark. 964 (1979) (per curiam).

The motion is, therefore, granted. A copy of this opinion will be forwarded to the Committee on Professional Conduct.

GLAZE, J., not participating.