

SANCTIONS AND ACTIONS AFFECTING LICENSURE (FY 2022)

BROOKS, Gary Morgan – Reprimand on August 27, 2021, for failing to represent his client competently and diligently, failing to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of the matter, failing to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information, failing to safekeep funds in an attorney trust account and failing to obtain his client’s informed consent, confirmed in writing, to hold the funds outside of trust, engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice, and failing to maintain required financial records of the attorney trust account. Respondent failed to properly manage his attorney trust account and made numerous errors in administering a small estate, including but not limited to errors contained in documents filed with the Orphans’ Court, errors in applying the statutory order of priority of claims against the Estate, errors in depositing client funds, errors in withdrawing funds, and Respondent’s overall failure to keep client matter records and ledgers.

DAILEY, Mitzi Elaine – Disbarred on July 23, 2021, for failing to represent her client competently and diligently, failing to abide by the scope of representation, failing to adequately communicate with her client, collecting unreasonable fees, failing to safekeep funds and make required deposits in an attorney trust account, failing to create and maintain required financial records of the attorney trust account, failing to take steps to protect her client’s interest upon termination of the representation, knowingly making false statements to Bar Counsel, knowingly failing to respond to Bar Counsel, engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation, and engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice. Respondent failed to maintain an attorney trust account, failed to act on her client’s case, failed to communicate with her client, abandoned representation of her client, misappropriated client funds, and made intentional misrepresentations to Bar Counsel.

FRANCIS, Ernest P. – Disbarred on August 24, 2021, effective immediately, in a reciprocal action from the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board, for failing to abide by the scope of the representation, failing to adequately communicate with his client, filing frivolous pleadings, knowingly making a false statement of material fact or law to a third person, engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation, and engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice. Respondent made substantive decisions regarding his client’s federal lawsuit without his client’s knowledge or consent, including rejecting two settlement offers without his client’s authorization, proffering an unauthorized settlement demand, and submitting filings containing factual representations that Respondent had reason to believe were false. Respondent filed multiple frivolous pleadings in the case that were not based on any good faith argument. Respondent also conducted himself with “pervasive incivility” during the underlying litigation and during a hearing conducted before a District Committee of the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board.

GRAU, Angela Beckner – Commission Reprimand on July 26, 2021, for failing to promptly inform her client of any decision or circumstance with respect to which her client’s informed consent is required, failing to explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit her client to make informed decisions regarding the representation, failing to communicate to her client the scope of the representation and the basis or rate of the fee and expenses for which her

client would be responsible before or within a reasonable time after commencing the representation, and engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice. Respondent and her client verbally agreed that the client would use the property at issue in the representation as collateral to obtain financing to pay any balance of attorney's fees. This arrangement was not incorporated into the client's retainer agreement, and Respondent failed to adequately communicate, in writing, the terms of payment for which her client would be responsible. At the conclusion of the litigation, Respondent failed to clearly advise her client that the representation had ended and began assisting her client in seeking financing to pay off the balance owed to Respondent. Respondent failed to explain to her client how Respondent's efforts to assist the client in obtaining a loan differed from the representation in the underlying litigation.

GRIMM, Bernard Seton – Disbarment by Consent on August 17, 2021, effective September 1, 2021, in a reciprocal action from the District of Columbia for failing to safekeep funds in an attorney trust account. Respondent recklessly misappropriated client funds.

KURLAND, Sari Karson – Commission Reprimand on July 26, 2021, for failing to adequately communicate with her client, failing to memorialize a contingent fee arrangement in a writing signed by her client, and failing to comply with attorney trust account record-keeping and prohibited transaction requirements. Respondent contemplated a contingency fee arrangement but failed to include it in the retainer agreement her client signed, failed to issue invoices in a timely or regular manner, and failed to maintain proper records of escrow transactions.

LEE, Arlene Frances – Commission Reprimand on August 25, 2021, for failing to represent her clients competently and diligently. Respondent submitted several out-of-date immigration forms on her client's behalf and mistakenly submitted corrected forms after her client's U-Visa expired, resulting in one of the applications being denied. In another immigration matter, Respondent failed to make sure her client's petition was filed before the deadline, resulting in the client's petition being denied.

MARKS, Isaac H. – Temporary Suspension on September 13, 2021, effective immediately, in a reciprocal action from the District of Columbia where the District of Columbia Court of Appeals suspended Respondent from the practice of law in the District of Columbia on June 24, 2021, pending further Order from the Court of Appeals.

MOAWAD, Edward Emad – Disbarred on August 11, 2021, for failing to represent his clients competently and diligently, failing to adequately communicate with his clients, collecting unreasonable fees, failing to properly supervise non-attorney assistants, knowingly making false statements to Bar Counsel, engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation, and engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice. Respondent failed to properly file his clients' immigration forms, failed to take remedial action to correct his filing errors, failed to communicate with his clients about the status of their cases, failed to supervise his non-attorney staff to ensure their conduct was compatible with his professional obligations, charged unreasonable fees for legal services never rendered or erroneously completed, and made intentional misrepresentations to Bar Counsel.

PEACE, Lynnell Davis – Commission Reprimand on July 24, 2021, for failing to safekeep funds in an attorney trust account, failing to comply with attorney trust account record-keeping and prohibited transaction requirements, making cash withdrawals from her attorney trust account, and disbursing funds from an attorney trust account when the disbursement created a negative balance with respect to an individual client matter or all client matters in the aggregate. Respondent's attorney trust account was overdrawn. Over a seventeen-month period, Respondent made several cash withdrawals, maintained negative client ledger balances, commingled her personal funds in her attorney trust account, and negligently misappropriated client funds. In addition, during the period observed, Respondent failed to perform monthly reconciliations of her attorney trust account and failed to maintain client ledgers.

SCHAUB, Ruth Marguerite Marie – Indefinite Suspension by Consent on August 16, 2021, effective October 1, 2021, with the right to petition for reinstatement after sixty days, for committing a criminal act that reflects adversely on her honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as an attorney, engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation, and engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice. In 2017 and 2018, Respondent withheld funds from her employees' paychecks but failed to safekeep the funds for the benefit of the Internal Revenue Service and failed to pay the funds to the IRS. Respondent filed her firm's quarterly federal tax returns but failed to remit employment tax for the last three quarters of 2017 and all of 2018. Respondent falsely claimed income tax withholding credits on her personal federal tax returns for 2017 and 2018.

SCHUMAN, Jonathan Robert – Disbarment by Consent on August 16, 2021, effective immediately, in a reciprocal action from the District of Columbia for failing to safekeep funds in an attorney trust account, failing to promptly deliver funds that his client was entitled to receive, and engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation. Respondent intentionally misappropriated hundreds of thousands of dollars of his former clients' funds and made false representations regarding the refund of a former client's funds.

SHEDLICK, Christopher Broughton – Suspension by Consent for six months on September 13, 2021, effective immediately, in a reciprocal action from the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board, for failing to safekeep funds in an attorney trust account and failing to comply with attorney trust account record-keeping requirements. Respondent admitted to the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board that he did not have any cash receipts journals, cash disbursements journals, client subsidiary ledgers, or evidence of reconciliations for his attorney trust account. Respondent also erroneously deposited a check into his operating account instead of his attorney trust account, which resulted in his attorney trust account being overdrawn.

SHIELDS, Jon Edward – Temporary Suspension on September 13, 2021, effective immediately, in a reciprocal action from the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board where the Board revoked Respondent's license to practice law in Virginia on October 22, 2020, pending further Order from the Court of Appeals.

SITTON, Winston Bradshaw – Indefinite Suspension on August 24, 2021, effective immediately, with the right to petition for reinstatement only following unconditional reinstatement in

Tennessee, in a reciprocal action from the Supreme Court of Tennessee where it suspended Respondent from the practice of law in Tennessee for four years, for engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice. Respondent made inappropriate statements in comments posted to Facebook concerning potential criminal defenses.

SMITH, Timothy Guy – Disbarment by Consent on August 10, 2021, effective immediately, in a reciprocal action from the District of Columbia, for failing to safekeep funds in an attorney trust account and engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice. Respondent, who was hired to establish a special needs trust to receive the proceeds from a confidential settlement agreement, recklessly misappropriated and commingled entrusted funds and interfered with the administration of justice by failing to keep adequate records of entrusted funds.

STAFILATOS, Calistratos Spiros – Indefinite Suspension by Consent on August 30, 2021, effective November 1, 2021, with the right to petition for reinstatement after ninety days, for failing to represent his clients competently and diligently, failing to adequately communicate with his clients, collecting unreasonable fees, failing to safekeep funds in an attorney trust account, failing to take steps to protect his clients' interests upon termination of the representation, and engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice. In a civil matter, Respondent failed to file an answer to an amended complaint and failed to respond to a motion for entry of default judgment, resulting in the court entering judgment against his client. In a custody matter, Respondent failed to respond to discovery, resulting in sanctions being assessed against his client. In two custody matters, Respondent charged unreasonable fees, failed to deposit unearned fees in his attorney trust account, and failed to provide his clients with periodic invoices for fees charged. Over a nine-month period, Respondent made multiple cash withdrawals from his attorney trust account, failed to reconcile the account, and failed to maintain client matter records.

STEIN, Leslie Alvin – Commission Reprimand on August 28, 2021, for disclosing confidential client information, failing to safekeep funds in an attorney trust account, failing to take steps to protect his client's interest upon termination of the representation, engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice, and failing to comply with attorney trust account record-keeping and monthly reconciliation requirements. Respondent failed to obtain his client's informed consent, confirmed in writing, to hold his client's funds outside of trust before doing so. Additionally, Respondent revealed confidential information related to the representation in his Motion to Strike Appearance without obtaining his client's informed consent. After his appearance was withdrawn, Respondent initially refused to refund his client any portion of the flat fee he had charged.

TYRONE, Erick Renard – Indefinite Suspension by Consent on September 7, 2021, effective October 7, 2021, with the right to petition for reinstatement after six months, for failing to represent his client competently, failing to safekeep funds in an attorney trust account, engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice, failing to comply with attorney trust account record-keeping and prohibited transaction requirements, and commingling funds. Respondent's attorney trust account was overdrawn. Over a period of approximately two years, Respondent made personal expenditures from his trust account, commingled personal and client funds with trust funds, made over forty cash disbursements from his trust account, failed to

maintain client matter records, and failed to perform monthly reconciliations of trust account activity. Respondent's negligent record-keeping practices resulted in negative client ledger balances in several matters.

VASILIADES, Christopher Edward – Disbarred on August 16, 2021, effective immediately, for knowingly failing to disclose facts necessary to correct a misapprehension, committing a criminal act that reflects adversely on his honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as an attorney, engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation, engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice, and knowingly manifesting by words or conduct bias or prejudice based upon race, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status. Respondent intentionally failed to supplement his answers to questions on his bar application and failed to disclose that information to the character committee. Respondent committed second-degree assault and violated various protective orders that were not reported to the Attorney Grievance Commission. In addition, Respondent's public social media accounts, which he used to advertise his legal practice, included racial, homophobic, and sexist content, reflected inappropriate bias, and were prejudicial to the administration of justice.

WALKER-TURNER, John Wayne, Sr. – Indefinite Suspension by Consent on August 20, 2021, effective September 20, 2021, with the right to petition for reinstatement after ninety days, for failing to safekeep funds in an attorney trust account, engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice, failing to comply with attorney trust account record-keeping and prohibited transaction requirements, making cash withdrawals from his attorney trust account, and disbursing funds from an attorney trust account when the disbursement created a negative balance with respect to an individual client matter or all client matters in the aggregate. Respondent deposited personal funds into his trust account, made cash withdrawals from the account, and failed to maintain client matter records. Respondent's attorney trust account was overdrawn twice.