

SANCTIONS AND ACTIONS AFFECTING LICENSURE (FY 2025)

DAVIS, Mary Elizabeth – Suspension for thirty days on July 9, 2024, effective *nunc pro tunc* to July 29, 2023, stayed under the conditions imposed by the Supreme Court of Maryland, in a reciprocal action from the District of Columbia for representing a client involving a conflict of interest and engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice. The Respondent failed to obtain her client’s informed consent regarding a conflict of interest.

ELAN, Evan Stuart – Disbarment by Consent on November 25, 2024, effective immediately, in a reciprocal action from Virginia and the District of Columbia, for failing to represent his clients competently and diligently, failing to adequately communicate with his clients, failing to take steps to protect his clients’ interests upon termination of the representation, and engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation. The Respondent abandoned representation of multiple clients.

FRANKLIN, Jamel R. – Disbarment by Consent on December 23, 2024, effective immediately, for committing a criminal act that reflects adversely on his honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as an attorney; and engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation. The Respondent pled guilty to one count of perjury in violation of Maryland Code, Criminal Law § 9-101; and one count of theft over \$100,000.00 in violation of Maryland Code, Criminal Law § 7-104.

GALLAGHER, Michele Yvonne – Indefinite Suspension by Consent on September 23, 2024, effective immediately, with reinstatement conditioned on the satisfactory report of a healthcare professional, 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. The Respondent entered an Alford Plea to one count of conspiracy to commit second degree assault.

GLENN, IV, Robert Edwin – Disbarment by Consent on July 29, 2024, effective immediately, in a reciprocal action from West Virginia, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, for engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation. Over the course of eight years, the Respondent improperly received over \$35,000.00 from his former law firm as reimbursement for expenses incurred while representing a client. The Respondent used the funds for personal expenses unrelated to client matters.

GORMLEY, Brian R. – Reprimand by Consent on December 19, 2024, for representing clients involving a conflict of interest and failing to uphold his responsibilities as a partner in a law firm. Without the informed consent of each potentially affected client, the Respondent represented clients in a matter where the position to be taken by the clients was adverse to a position taken or to be taken by another client in the same matter, even though the second client was represented by different counsel. The Respondent, as a partner in his law firm, failed to make reasonable efforts to ensure his firm had in effect measures giving reasonable assurance that the conduct of the lawyers in the firm conformed to the Rules of Professional Conduct, specifically by failing to ensure conflicts were screened when opening new cases.

GUNDLACH, Phillip L. – Commission Reprimand on July 8, 2024, for failing to adequately communicate with his client, failing to take steps to protect his client’s interest upon termination of the representation, and failing to maintain candor to the tribunal. The Respondent represented a client in a divorce matter and sent correspondence to his client via mail to his home address and via email despite learning his client had become incarcerated. The client, therefore, was not aware of the Respondent’s motion to withdraw his representation. The client received a default judgment as a result of his failure to appear at a court date that occurred while he was incarcerated.

HARDY, II, James Roger – Suspension by Consent for 120 days on July 25, 2024, effective *nunc pro tunc* to October 25, 2022, in a reciprocal action from Connecticut, for violating the State of Connecticut Rules of Professional Conduct. The Respondent failed to represent his clients diligently; failed to adequately communicate with his clients; collected unreasonable fees; failed to return unearned fees upon the termination of representation; failed to reasonably expedite litigation; engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation; and engaged in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice. The Respondent also attempted to settle a grievance claim with a former client without advising the client in writing of the desirability of seeking the advice of independent legal counsel and providing a reasonable opportunity to seek same. On July 25, 2024, the Supreme Court of Maryland ordered the Respondent’s reinstatement, effective *nunc pro tunc* to February 23, 2023.

KOH, Francis Huisuk – Suspension by Consent for six months on August 27, 2024, effective *nunc pro tunc* to May 17, 2024, in a reciprocal action from Virginia, for failing to represent his clients competently and diligently; failing to properly supervise a non-attorney assistant; engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation; and engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice. The Respondent failed to provide competent and diligent representation in representing foreign domiciled trademark applicants before the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

MAHONEY, John P. – Suspension by Consent for sixty days on September 25, 2024, effective *nunc pro tunc* to July 13, 2024, with all but thirty days stayed in favor of one year of probation with the terms imposed by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, in a reciprocal action from the District of Columbia, for failing to adequately communicate with his clients, failing to take steps to protect his clients’ interests upon termination of the representation, and failing to properly supervise attorneys. In six client matters, the Respondent failed to take reasonable steps to ensure two subordinate attorneys complied with their ethical duties to clients and failed to take reasonable remedial action to avoid or mitigate the consequences of the subordinates’ conduct. In four of the matters, the Respondent personally failed to respond to his clients’ reasonable requests for information, and in three of the matters, the Respondent personally failed to protect his clients’ interests as the representation was ending.

MAYERS, Sheila Bridget Thurmond – Temporary Suspension on September 23, 2024, in a reciprocal action from the District of Columbia and Virginia, pending further Order from the Supreme Court of Maryland.

O'NEILL, Brian David – Disbarred on September 24, 2024, effective immediately, in a reciprocal action from the District of Columbia, for 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; and engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice. In the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, the Respondent pled guilty to two counts of wire fraud.

WALDECK, Robert P. – Disbarred on July 25, 2024, effective immediately, in a reciprocal action from the District of Columbia, for failing to represent his clients diligently; failing to adequately communicate with his clients; failing to safekeep funds in an attorney trust account; failing to take steps to protect his clients' interests upon termination of the representation; engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation; and engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice. While representing five different clients in employment matters, the Respondent intentionally misappropriated trust funds, commingled client funds with funds in his operating account, recklessly failed to determine the amount held in trust for each client, delayed settlement negotiations, failed to meet litigation deadlines, and abandoned his clients.

WHITTED, Stephen E. – Indefinite Suspension on August 1, 2024, effective immediately, for filing frivolous pleadings; engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation; and engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice. The Respondent repeatedly filed retaliatory, meritless claims against his ex-wife, her new husband, her attorneys, and judges who ruled against him; filed meritless appeals; repeated failed arguments; and ignored court rulings.

YEATMAN, Francis Edward – Disbarred on November 22, 2024, for failing to represent his clients competently and diligently, failing to adequately communicate with his clients, knowingly failing to respond to Bar Counsel, and engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice. The Respondent failed to communicate with, and effectively abandoned, his clients in two separate estate matters. In addition, in connection with Bar Counsel's investigation, the Respondent failed to respond to requests for information by Bar Counsel.