

DISCIPLINARY SUMMARIES
FY 2018

DINOVITZ, Shoshana – Commission Reprimand on July 24, 2017, for charging legal fees against her former client’s credit card after authorization had been revoked, communicating with the former client when she knew that the former client was a represented party and disclosing confidential information.

ESTY, JoAnna M. – Commission Reprimand on July 28, 2017, in her capacity as personal representative of an estate, for failing to recognize that her representation of one or more clients would be materially limited by her responsibilities to another client and failing to obtain the Orphan’s Court’s approval in advance of making periodic distributions of Estate funds that created a conflict of interest.

JOHNSON, Laurence Fleming – Indefinite Suspension by Consent with the right to apply for reinstatement ninety (90) days, effective August 12, 2017, for failing to represent his client competently and diligently, failing to safe-keep client funds in trust, failing to deposit the client’s fees, paid in advance, into his attorney trust account and failing to ensure that his firm had in effect measures giving reasonable assurance that the conduct of his non-attorney assistant was compatible with his professional obligations.

MOMODU, Lawal – Interim Suspension on July 28, 2017, as a reciprocal action to his United States District Court for the District of Maryland indefinite suspension, pending further order of the Court of Appeals.

POWERS, James Aloysius – Indefinite Suspension on July 10, 2017, for failing to abide by his client’s decisions concerning the objectives of the representation, failing to keep the client reasonably informed of the status of his case, failing to surrender papers and property to which the client was entitled upon termination of the representation, and during litigation against his former client, revealing information subject to the attorney-client privilege to the detriment of the former client.

SHELTEMA, James Robert Jordan – Disbarred by Consent on July 18, 2017, for engaging in criminal conduct that reflected adversely on his honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as an attorney in other respects based upon his conviction, in federal court, for filing a false tax return and tax evasion.

SMIGIEL, Michael Dwayne, Sr. – Commission Reprimand on June 27, 2017, for failing to safe-keep property of clients or third persons in an attorney trust account, failing to maintain proper trust account records and failing to ensure that the conduct of his non-attorney assistant was compatible with his professional obligations.

TOLAR, Jane – Commission Reprimand on June 27, 2017, related to two (2) separate clients for failing to keep the clients reasonably informed about the status of their matters and failing to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information.