

SANCTIONS AND ACTIONS AFFECTING LICENSURE (FY 2018)

ABDULLAH, Raouf Muhammad – Reprimand by Consent on September 22, 2017, for failing to make reasonable efforts to ensure that his firm had in effect measures giving reasonable assurances that all attorneys in the firm conformed with the Maryland Attorneys' Rules of Professional Conduct and ratifying the conduct and/or failing to take remedial action to mitigate the misconduct.

BROWN, Alex Jonathan – Reprimand by Consent on September 27, 2017, for engaging in a course of unduly aggressive, uncivil and obstructionist litigation conduct that was both prejudicial to the administration of justice and brought the legal profession into disrepute.

BROWN, Jibril Abdussaboor – Reprimand by Consent on September 11, 2017, for failing to disclose a fact necessary to correct a misapprehension and engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice.

BURCH Jr., John Thomas – Disbarred by Consent on October 12, 2017, in a reciprocal action from his disbarment in Virginia based upon breach of fiduciary duties to a charitable foundation over a period of several years. In connection with his misuse of foundation funds, the Respondent also pleaded guilty in June 2017 to one count of wire fraud in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

BUTLER, Lance, III – Disbarred on September 7, 2017, for falsifying and failing to file tax returns for multiple tax years, intentionally misrepresenting to his government employer the existence of, and earnings from, his private law practice and job as a personal trainer, misrepresenting his employment status to obtain a loan deferral, and lying under oath at a deposition and hearing in a prior attorney discipline proceeding.

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Reprimand on July 24, 2017, for charging legal fees against her former client's credit card after authorization had been revoked, communicating with the former client when she knew that the former client was a represented party and disclosing confidential information.

DYMOWSKI, Leo – Commission Reprimand on August 18, 2017, for making statements concerning the integrity of the sitting judges and judicial appointment process with reckless disregard as to the truth or falsity of the statements.

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.

GIANNETTI Jr., John Alexander – Indefinite Suspension on December 15, 2017 with the right to apply for reinstatement no sooner than one year, for continually failing to file or pay both his federal and state taxes for a period of seven years.

GODFREY, Jeff A. – Interim Suspension on October 31, 2017, in a reciprocal action from the annulment of his law license in West Virginia. Respondent was convicted by a military tribunal of

crimes including larceny of U.S. Government property, knowingly making a false official statement and signing false records with intent to deceive.

GORMAN, Matthew Peter – Interim Suspension on October 31, 2017 following his criminal conviction in the United States District Court of Maryland of Bribery Involving an Agent of a Program Receiving Federal Funds.

GRACIE, Kevin Barry – Commission Reprimand on October 2, 2017, for assisting an attorney in the unauthorized practice of law in Maryland.

HOPKINS, John Allen – Commission Reprimand on September 26, 2017, for engaging in conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice when he delivered an envelope containing contraband to his incarcerated client.

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.

KARGBO, Mariatu – Inactive Status on November 7, 2017, by Per Curiam Order. Opinion of the Court of Appeals to follow.

McLAIN, William Gordon – Disbarred by Consent on October 25, 2017, for misappropriating trust funds and failing to disburse funds to his client in connection with a settlement. Respondent also made false and misleading statements to his client and to Bar Counsel.

McLAUGHLIN, Louisa Content – Disbarred on September 11, 2017, for failing to act in her client's best interest in her capacity as representative in an estate planning matter. Respondent failed to communicate with her client about essential matters concerning the representation, failed to explain the basis for her fees or provide invoices, failed to obtain appropriate consent before disbursing client funds, failed to fully, timely and honestly respond to Bar Counsel's lawful demands for information.

MOMODU, Lawal – Indefinite Suspension on August 29, 2017, with the right to apply for reinstatement no sooner than December 14, 2017, in a reciprocal action from the United States District Court for the District of Maryland for failing to disclose prior discipline on his bar application and, following disclosure, providing incomplete and inaccurate information to the Admission Committee. Respondent previously was suspended on an interim basis on July 28, 2017 pending further Order of the Court of Appeals.

MOODY, Maurice Marnea – Disbarred on September 12, 2017, for failure to maintain an accurate accounting of client funds, engaging in a pattern of negligent and deceitful accounting practices, knowingly making a false statement to Bar Counsel in connection with a disciplinary matter, submitting false client ledgers and settlement sheets to Bar Counsel.

MORIN, Michael Gregg – Commission Reprimand on November 15, 2017, for failing to render competent representation, failing to act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing his client, failing to promptly inform his client of decisions, and failing to take steps to protect his client's interest upon termination of his representation.

MORRIS, Marianne Elizabeth – Indefinite Suspension by Consent on September 7, 2017, effective thirty (30) days from the date of the Order, for engaging in criminal conduct that adversely reflects on her honesty, trustworthiness and/or fitness as an attorney in other respects and engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

PEKLO, Gary Stewart – Disbarred by Consent on October 2, 2017, for conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation, and for conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice, based on his failure to report income on his tax return. Respondent was previously suspended indefinitely by consent on June 9, 2015.

POMMETT, Francis A. – Indefinite Suspension by Consent on December 14, 2017, with the right to apply for reinstatement after one year, for failure to abide by his client's decisions concerning the objectives of the representation, failure to keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the matter, failure to promptly comply with reasonable requests for information and explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation, failure to appropriately safeguard property and maintain complete records, charging unreasonable fees, and engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice.

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.

SCHELTEMA, 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 safekeep 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.

STUART, Pamela Bruce – One-year Suspension on August 29, 2017, effective nunc pro tunc to February 6, 2017, in a reciprocal action from Florida for breaching fiduciary obligations by making loans of trust monies to herself. Respondent previously was suspended on an interim basis on March 2, 2017 pending further Order of the Court of Appeals.

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.

WOOLERY, Benjamin Jeremy – Reprimand on December 15, 2017, for failing to provide competent representation to a client, failing to act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client, and engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice. Respondent, as the personal representative of an estate, sold a tractor stored by one of the beneficiaries of the estate on property owned by the estate without first ascertaining the ownership or approximate value of the tractor and, even though promptly informed of the tractor's ownership and value, failed to rectify his error because of the attorney's antipathy to the tractor's owner.