

Discipline

PUBLIC DISCIPLINE

March 4 THROUGH April 19, 2005

Allegheny County

The Supreme Court on March 1 ordered **Joseph Edward Hudak** suspended for one year and one day with credit for four and a half months served on emergency temporary suspension. Justice J. Michael Eakin dissented in favor of a two-year suspension with credit for time served, as recommended by the Disciplinary Board. Three members of the board dissented in favor of a three-year suspension with credit for time served. One board member dissented in favor of a suspension for one year and one day with credit for time served. "The issue at the heart of this matter is respondent's use of non-refundable retainer fee agreements," the disciplinary report said. "In respondent's view, the non-refundable retainer permits the lawyer to retain the entire fee even if the services bargained for are not completed." The board concluded Hudak did not commit a fee-related violation in six of eight disciplinary matters under consideration but should have refunded fees in the other two. The board also concluded that in all eight matters Hudak "neglected his obligations to clients" to a degree sufficient to warrant suspension.

Delaware County

The Supreme Court on March 24 ordered **Harry Curtis Forrest Jr.** suspended for one year and one day, as recommended by the Disciplinary Board. According to the disciplinary report, Forrest continued to practice law after having been placed on inactive status for failing to complete continuing legal education credits.

Out of State

The Supreme Court on April 6 ordered **Brian P. Raney** suspended for five years, as recommended by the Disciplinary Board. The disciplinary report said Raney engaged in unauthorized practice in Virginia and made false and misleading statements about his status to a court there. Raney was not admitted in Virginia and was on inactive status in Pennsylvania at the time. The report added that Raney's misconduct was aggravated by his failure to appear at his disciplinary hearing.

The court on April 19 ordered **Thomas Joseph Coleman III** suspended for two years. The Disciplinary Board recommended a suspension of one year and one day. Three members of the board dissented in favor of a two-year suspension. According to the disciplinary report, Coleman engaged in unauthorized practice while on inactive status. "Respondent signed hundreds of pleadings as an attorney of record in Pennsylvania when he was not licensed to do so," the report said.

Philadelphia

The Supreme Court on April 6 ordered **Gary Scott Silver** suspended for six months, followed by 12 months of probation under the supervision of a practice monitor. According to the disciplinary report, Silver mishandled client funds, failed to comply with court orders and failed to appear at a hearing in connection with litigation over the breakup of his law firm.

The court on April 19 ordered **James A. Bolden** suspended for three years, as recommended by the Disciplinary Board. Two members of the board dissented in favor of a suspension of one year and one day with restitution to the clients affected. One member of the board dissented in favor of disbarment. According to the disciplinary report, Bolden used his position as an executor of an estate to benefit himself at the expense of the heirs. "Respondent withdrew approximately \$80,000 of entrusted funds to which he was not entitled," the report said.

York County

The Supreme Court on March 11 ordered **Floyd Paul Jones** disbarred, as recommended by the Disciplinary Board. According to the disciplinary report, Jones converted funds from a client and failed to return unearned fees to five other clients. The report said Jones was found in contempt for failing to pay support payments, had abandoned his law office with 11 client cases pending in criminal court and was the subject of four arrest warrants relating to charges of passing bad checks, failing to pay support and theft of funds.

Reciprocal Discipline

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has imposed reciprocal discipline on the following attorneys: **Rupert A. Hall Jr.**, out of state, disbarred, on March 4, for like discipline imposed by the Supreme Court of New Jersey; **Louis J. Recchione**, out of state, disbarred, on March 4, for like discipline imposed by the Supreme Court of New Jersey; and **Aaron S. Friedmann**, Philadelphia, suspended for six months, on March 15, for like discipline imposed by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

Disbarments on Consent

The following attorneys have been disbarred on consent under a rule of disciplinary enforcement pertaining to resignations by attorneys under disciplinary investigation: **Frederick C. Hanselmann**, Montgomery County, on March 24; **Kevin L. Ritchey**, Lancaster County, on March 24; **Rosanne Kay Diehl**, Allegheny County, on April 15.

Temporary Suspension — Rule 214

The following attorneys have been placed on temporary suspension under a rule of disciplinary enforcement pertaining to attorneys convicted of serious crimes: **Michael David Rostoker**, out of state, on March 24; **Leighton Cohen**, Lehigh County, on April 15; and **James R. Cooney**, Erie County, on April 19.

REINSTATEMENTS

March 4 THROUGH April 19, 2005

The Supreme Court has approved a petition for reinstatement filed by the following individual: **R. Elliott Toll**, Bucks County, from disbarment on consent, on March 11, as recommended by the Disciplinary Board.