

Discipline

PUBLIC DISCIPLINE

May 1 to July 1, 2004

Delaware County

The Supreme Court on May 24 ordered **Jeffrey Thomas Spangler** suspended for 18 months, as recommended by the Disciplinary Board. According to the discipline report, Spangler was convicted in Montgomery County in 2000 of simple assault by physical menace and recklessly endangering another person, arising from a traffic encounter. The report said he was involved in another confrontation that resulted in a guilty plea to disorderly conduct in 2001. The report added that on the way to a disciplinary hearing later in 2001, Spangler became involved in a confrontation with a woman walking her dog, maced the woman and the dog, and subsequently pleaded guilty to simple assault by physical menace in Delaware County.

Philadelphia

The Supreme Court on May 6 ordered **Vladimir Goykhman** disbarred, as recommended by the Disciplinary Board. According to the discipline report, Goykhman “intentionally and knowingly failed to properly handle fiduciary funds by cashing client settlement checks at a check cashing agency and intentionally and knowingly converting his clients’ funds when he failed to promptly distribute their share of the funds and failed to hold their funds inviolate.”

The court on June 24 ordered **Kenneth Gallen** suspended for one year and one day, retroactive to Jan. 23, 2002, as recommended by the Disciplinary Board. Six members of the board dissented in favor of a stayed suspension, probation and supervision by a sobriety monitor. According to the discipline report, Gallen was convicted of driving under the influence, recklessly endangering and aggravated assault by vehicle while driving under the influence of alcohol, in connection with incidents in 1997, 1999 and 2000. The report said Gallen had been charged with driving under the influence on five other occasions as well.

The court on June 29 ordered **Joan Gaughan Atlas** suspended for three years, as recommended by the Disciplinary Board. The discipline report said Atlas engaged in “misappropriation of approximately \$35,000 in fiduciary funds, misrepresentation to third parties and repeated mishandling of fiduciary funds belonging to clients. She further made a series of false certifications on four of her annual attorney fee forms. ...”

York County

The Supreme Court on May 24 ordered **Mark David Frankel** disbarred, as unanimously recommended by the Disciplinary Board. The discipline report said, “This matter presents a very egregious case of an attorney who used his authority and professional position to induce his clients to take actions so that respondent could engage in sexually inappropriate behavior.” The report said Frankel had engaged in “inappropriate touching and viewing” and added, “The men involved in this instant matter acquiesced to the activities respondent asked them to engage in because they believed respondent when he assured them that this conduct would be helpful, if not necessary, to their cases.” The board concluded that “Respondent’s actions toward his clients constitute the worst sort of abuse of authority and cannot be condoned. Respondent tricked and deceived his clients in order to sexually gratify himself.”

Out of State

The Supreme Court on May 11 ordered **Nicholas Panarella Jr.** suspended for four years, retroactive to July 10, 2001, as recommended by the Disciplinary Board. Justices Sandra Schultz Newman and Max Baer dissented in favor of a five-year retroactive suspension. Four members of the Disciplinary Board dissented from the majority recommendation in favor a five-year retroactive suspension. According to

the disciplinary report, Panarella pleaded guilty in 2000 to a federal charge of serving as an accessory after the fact to a wire fraud scheme to deprive the public of the honest services of an elected official. The report said Panarella, a tax specialist, assisted in concealing consulting fees his tax collection business paid to then-state Sen. F. Joseph Loeper Jr.

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: **Jay Martillotti**, Lackawanna County, on May 24, retroactive to Nov. 18, 2003; **Janice Griffin O'Reilly**, Allegheny County, on May 24; **Brian J. Seleyo**, Delaware County, on May 24; and **Paul Anthony Graeff Jr.**, Philadelphia, on June 24, retroactive to Feb. 3.

Temporary Suspension – Rule 208(f)

The following attorneys have been placed on emergency temporary suspension under a rule of disciplinary enforcement pertaining to attorneys whose continued practice would cause substantial public or private harm because of the misappropriation of funds or other egregious conduct: **Joseph Peter Guarrasi**, Bucks County, on June 24; and **Edward James McKenna**, Delaware County, on July 1.

Reciprocal Discipline

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has imposed reciprocal discipline on the following attorney: **Philip L. Kantor**, out of state, suspended for three months, on June 29, for like discipline imposed by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

TRANSFERS TO INACTIVE STATUS

May 1 to July 1, 2004

The following attorneys have been transferred to inactive status in connection with a rule of disciplinary enforcement pertaining to attorneys suffering from a disability: **Warren D. Utermahlen**, Monroe County, on May 6; **Neil L. Conway**, Luzerne County, on May 24; and **Barry John Much**, Delaware County, on June 29.

REINSTATEMENTS

May 1 to July 1, 2004

Out of State

The Supreme Court on May 28 ordered **Aaron D. Denker**, out of state, reinstated to practice from disbarment ordered Feb. 10, 1998, retroactive to May 6, 1996. Justice Sandra Schultz Newman dissented in favor of denial. A majority of the Disciplinary Board recommended denial; four members dissented in favor of reinstatement. According to the discipline report, Denker served 19 months in federal prison after he “laundered money for a client who was known to him as a drug dealer.” The board majority said he was “not ready for reinstatement.” The board dissenters said there was “no reason why he hasn’t served a sufficient length of disbarment.”

Bucks County

The court on June 29 ordered the reinstatement of **Frederick S. Schofield III** from disbarment ordered Feb. 24, 1997, as unanimously recommended by the Disciplinary Board. According to the discipline report, Schofield was disbarred after he drew contingency fees from his trust account before settlement funds had been received or had cleared. The board said it was “persuaded that petitioner has demonstrated that he has engaged in a qualitative period of rehabilitation during his disbarment.”