FILED

Nov 22, 2023

Disciplinary

Roard

Docket # 002

DISCIPLINARY BOARD WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

In re

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TERRY HOOD SIMON,

Lawyer (Bar No. 15409).

Proceeding No. 23#00058

ODC File No(s). 22-00312

STIPULATION TO SUSPENSION

Under Rule 9.1 of the Washington Supreme Court's Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct (ELC), the following Stipulation to suspension is entered into by the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) of the Washington State Bar Association (Association) through disciplinary counsel Marsha Matsumoto and Respondent lawyer Terry Hood Simon.

Respondent understands that Respondent is entitled under the ELC to a hearing, to present exhibits and witnesses on Respondent's behalf, and to have a hearing officer determine the facts, misconduct, and sanction in this case. Respondent further understands that Respondent is entitled under the ELC to appeal the outcome of a hearing to the Disciplinary Board, and, in certain cases, the Supreme Court. Respondent further understands that a hearing and appeal could result in an outcome more favorable or less favorable to Respondent. Respondent chooses to resolve this proceeding now by entering into the following stipulation to facts, misconduct, and sanction to

Stipulation to Discipline Page 1

1	avoid the risk, time, and expense attendant to further proceedings.
2	I. ADMISSION TO PRACTICE
3	1. Respondent was admitted to practice law in the State of Washington on November 4,
4	1985.
5	II. STIPULATED FACTS
6	2. Respondent is a solo practitioner who practices primarily in the areas of estate
7	planning, probate, and criminal law.
8	3. Respondent maintained an Interest on Lawyer's Trust Account (trust account), ending
9	in 4994, at Union Bank for the deposit of client funds.
10	4. Respondent personally made all withdrawals and disbursements from the trust
11	account.
12	5. Respondent personally maintained all records for the trust account.
13	Estate of Jeannette Dickinson
14	6. Jeannette Dickinson died on November 16, 2020.
15	7. Dickinson was survived by a niece, Kathleen Kelly.
16	8. Acting under a power of attorney during Dickinson's life, Kelly arranged for the sale
17	of Dickinson's house. The sale was pending at the time of Dickinson's death.
18	9. In December 2020, Kelly hired Respondent to handle the probate of Dickinson's
19	estate.
20	10. On December 30, 2020, Kelly was appointed as personal representative of Dickinson's
21	estate in In re Estate of Dickinson, Snohomish County Superior Court, No. 20-4-01929-31.
22	11. On January 27, 2021, the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
23	(DSHS) filed a Creditor's Claim in the amount of \$177,807.23 against Dickinson's estate to
24	Stipulation to Discipline OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL Page 2 OF THE WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

1	recover Medicaid benefits paid on behalf of Dickinson.
2	12. In January 2021, the sale of Dickinson's house closed.
3	13. After paying closing costs, an existing mortgage, and other expenses, the escrow
4	company sent Respondent a check in the amount of \$62,960.60 from the proceeds of the sale.
5	14. Respondent deposited the \$62,960.60 check into Respondent's trust account on
6	February 4, 2021.
7	15. The funds were designated to pay creditors such as DSHS, pending further order of
8	the court.
9	16. In 2021 and 2022, Kelly repeatedly asked Respondent to pay DSHS, provide Kelly
10	with copies of bills paid, and prepare final papers to close the probate.
11	17. Respondent knew that Kelly wanted the case to be completed as quickly as possible.
12	18. DSHS also contacted Respondent numerous times to request payment of its lien.
13	19. Respondent often did not respond to Kelly or to DSHS. When Respondent responded,
14	Respondent promised to issue a check to DSHS and finalize the probate, but then failed to do so.
15	20. In July 2022, Respondent prepared a petition and court order allowing Respondent to
16	disburse the Dickinson Estate funds from Respondent's trust account. The order was entered on
17	July 15, 2022.
18	21. On July 15, 2022, Respondent issued a trust account check in the amount of
19	\$60,960.60 to DSHS and a trust account check in the amount of \$2,000 to Kelly for the personal
20	representative's fee.
21	22. Respondent did not promptly pay DSHS the funds that DSHS was entitled to receive.
22	23. Respondent did not promptly pay Kelly the funds that Kelly was entitled to receive.
23	24. From February 4, 2021 through July 15, 2022, Respondent should have been holding
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1	43. By commingling lawyer funds with client funds in the trust account, Respondent
2	violated RPC 1.15A(h)(1).
3	44. By failing to promptly respond to requests for information during a grievance
4	investigation, Respondent violated RPC 8.4(1), ELC 1.5, and ELC 5.3.
5	IV. PRIOR DISCIPLINE
6	45. Respondent does not have a record of prior discipline.
7	V. APPLICATION OF ABA STANDARDS
8	46. The following American Bar Association Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions
9	(1991 ed. & Feb. 1992 Supp.) apply to this case:
10	4.1 Failure to Preserve the Client's Property Absent aggravating or mitigating circumstances, upon application of the
11	factors set out in 3.0, the following sanctions are generally appropriate in cases
12	involving the failure to preserve client property: 4.11 Disbarment is generally appropriate when a lawyer knowingly converts client property and causes injury or potential injury to a client.
13	4.12 Suspension is generally appropriate when a lawyer knows or should know that he is dealing improperly with client property and causes injury or
14	potential injury to a client. 4.13 Reprimand is generally appropriate when a lawyer is negligent in dealing
15	with client property and causes injury or potential injury to a client. 4.14 Admonition is generally appropriate when a lawyer is negligent in dealing
16	with client property and causes little or no actual or potential injury to a client.
17	4.4 Lack of Diligence
18	Absent aggravating or mitigating circumstances, upon application of the factors set out in Standard 3.0, the following sanctions are generally appropriate
19	in cases involving a failure to act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client:
20	4.41 Disbarment is generally appropriate when: (a) a lawyer abandons the practice and causes serious or potentially serious injury
21	to a client; or (b) a lawyer knowingly fails to perform services for a client and causes serious or
22	potentially serious injury to a client; or (c) a lawyer engages in a pattern of neglect with respect to client matters and
23	causes serious or potentially serious injury to a client. 4.42 Suspension is generally appropriate when:
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- b) Respondent shall complete the WSBA continuing legal education course entitled, "Basics of Trust Accounting (Getting Your Ducks in a Row)" (March 2021), or an equivalent 1.0 credit on managing trust accounts in Washington State, and provide disciplinary counsel with documentation showing that Respondent has done so.
- c) For all client matters, Respondent shall have a written fee agreement signed by the client, which agreements are to be maintained for at least seven years (see RPC 1.15B(a)(3)).
- d) On a monthly basis, using ODC's form report entitled "Monthly Reconciliation and Review Report," Respondent shall review the trust-account records detailed on the form report, review the completed report, and sign and date the completed report.
- e) On a quarterly basis, Respondent shall provide ODC's audit staff with all trust-account records for the time period to be reviewed by ODC's audit staff and disciplinary counsel for compliance with the RPC:
 - i) Months 1-3. By no later than the 30^{th} day of the fourth month after the commencement of probation, Respondent shall provide the trust account records from the date of commencement of probation to the end of the third full month.
 - ii) Months 4-6. By no later than the 30^{th} day of the seventh month after the commencement of probation, Respondent shall provide the trust account records from the end of the previously provided quarter through the end of month six.
 - iii) Months 7-9. By no later than the 30^{th} day of the tenth month after the commencement of probation, Respondent shall provide the trust account records from the end of the previously provided quarter through the end of month nine.
 - iv) Months 10 12. By no later than the 30^{th} day of the thirteenth month after the commencement of probation, Respondent shall provide the trust account records from the end of the previously provided quarter through the end of month twelve.
 - v) Months 13 15. By no later than the 30^{th} day of the sixteenth month after the commencement of probation, Respondent shall provide the trust account records from the end of the previously provided quarter through the end of month fifteen.
 - vi) Months 16 18. By no later than the 30th day of the nineteenth month after the commencement of probation, Respondent shall provide the trust account records from the end of the previously provided quarter through the end of month eighteen.

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vii) Months 19-21. By no later than the 30^{th} day of the twenty-second month after the commencement of probation, Respondent shall provide the trust account records from the end of the previously provided quarter through the end of month twenty-one.

The trust account records Respondent provides to ODC for each quarterly review of his trust account will include: (a) copies of each completed "Monthly Reconciliation and Review Report" referenced in sub-paragraph (d) above, (b) a complete checkbook register for Respondent's trust account covering the period being reviewed, (c) complete individual client ledger records for any client with funds in Respondent's trust account during all or part of the period being reviewed, as well as for Respondent's own funds in the account (if any), and (d) copies of all trust-account bank statements, deposit slips, and cancelled checks covering the period being reviewed. ODC's Audit Manager or designee will review Respondent's trust account records for each period.

- f) On the same quarterly time schedule set forth in the preceding paragraph, Respondent will provide ODC's Audit Manager or designee with copies of any and all fee agreements entered into within the time period at issue.
- g) ODC's Audit Manager or designee may request additional financial or client records if needed to verify Respondent's compliance with RPC 1.15A and/or 1.15B. Within twenty days of a request from ODC's Audit Manager or designee for additional records needed to verify Respondent's compliance with RPC 1.15A and/or RPC 1.15B, Respondent will provide ODC's Audit Manager or designee the additional records requested.
- h) Respondent will reimburse the Association for time spent by ODC's Audit Manager or designee in reviewing and reporting on Respondent's records to determine Respondent's compliance with RPC 1.15A and RPC 1.15B, at the rate of \$85 per hour. Respondent will make payment within thirty days of each written invoice setting forth the auditor's time and payment due.
- 60. During probation, Respondent shall also participate in two 30-minute office management consultations with the Association's Practice Management Advisor or designee. The Practice Management Advisor is currently Margeaux Green, who can be reached at margeauxg@wsba.org. Respondent shall contact the Practice Management Advisor to schedule a consultation within 30 days of commencement of probation. The consultation shall take place no later than 30 days thereafter, unless rescheduled by the Practice Management Advisor. Respondent authorizes the Practice Management Advisor to report immediately to the Probation

1	Administrator and/or disciplinary counsel if Respondent fails to comply with any requirements.
2	VII. RESTITUTION
3	61. If the reconstructed trust-account records, for the time period of January 1, 2021 up
4	through the date of submission to ODC for consideration of reinstatement, indicate that any client
5	is owed funds, then Respondent is required to make full restitution to each client of all funds
6	owed. Respondent shall pay to the client interest on those funds, at a rate of 12%, calculated from
7	the date on which the client (or third party as directed by the client) was first entitled to receive
8	the funds to the date on which repayment is made.
9	62. Reinstatement is conditioned on full payment of restitution, with interest.
10	VIII. COSTS AND EXPENSES
11	63. In light of Respondent's willingness to resolve this matter by stipulation at an early
12	stage of the proceedings, Respondent shall pay attorney fees and administrative costs of \$2,328
13	in accordance with ELC 13.9(i). The Association will seek a money judgment under ELC 13.9(l)
14	if these costs are not paid within 30 days of approval of this Stipulation.
15	64. Reinstatement from suspension is conditioned on payment of costs.
16	IX. VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT
17	65. Respondent states that prior to entering into this Stipulation, Respondent has had an
18	opportunity to consult independent legal counsel regarding this Stipulation, that Respondent is
19	entering into this Stipulation voluntarily, and that no promises or threats have been made by ODC,
20	the Association, nor by any representative thereof, to induce the Respondent to enter into this
21	Stipulation except as provided herein.
22	66. Once fully executed, this Stipulation is a contract governed by the legal principles
23	applicable to contracts, and may not be unilaterally revoked or modified by either party.
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X. LIMITATIONS

67. This Stipulation is a compromise agreement intended to resolve this matter in accordance with the purposes of lawyer discipline while avoiding further proceedings and the expenditure of additional resources by the Respondent and ODC. Both the Respondent and ODC acknowledge that the result after further proceedings in this matter might differ from the result agreed to herein.

68. This Stipulation is not binding upon ODC or the Respondent as a statement of all existing facts relating to the professional conduct of the Respondent, and any additional existing facts may be proven in any subsequent disciplinary proceedings.

69. This Stipulation results from the consideration of various factors by both parties, including the benefits to both by promptly resolving this matter without the time and expense of hearings, Disciplinary Board appeals, and Supreme Court appeals or petitions for review. As such, approval of this Stipulation will not constitute precedent in determining the appropriate sanction to be imposed in other cases; but, if approved, this Stipulation will be admissible in subsequent proceedings against Respondent to the same extent as any other approved Stipulation. Under ELC 9.1(d)(4), the Disciplinary Board reviews a stipulation based solely on the record agreed to by the parties. Under ELC 3.1(b), all documents that form the record before the Board for its review become public information on approval of the Stipulation by the Board, unless disclosure is restricted by order or rule of law.

70. If this Stipulation is approved by the Disciplinary Board and Supreme Court, it will be followed by the disciplinary action agreed to in this Stipulation. All notices required in the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct will be made. Respondent represents that, in addition to Washington, Respondent also is admitted to practice law in the following jurisdictions, whether