

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, : No. 3192 Disciplinary Docket No. 3  
 :  
 Petitioner : No. 112 DB 2025  
 :  
 : Attorney Registration No. 328676  
 v. :  
 : (Allegheny County)  
 :  
 JOSEPH ALEXANDER SCIOSCIA, III, :  
 :  
 Respondent :

**ORDER**

**PER CURIAM**

**AND NOW**, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2026, upon consideration of the Recommendation of the Three-Member Panel of the Disciplinary Board, the Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent is granted, and Joseph Alexander Scioscia, III, is suspended on consent from the Bar of this Commonwealth for a period of one year and one day. Respondent shall comply with the provisions of Pa.R.D.E. 217 and pay costs to the Disciplinary Board. See Pa.R.D.E. 208(g).

A True Copy Nicole Traini  
As Of 06/22/2026

Attest:   
Chief Clerk  
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, :

Petitioner :

: No. 112 DB 2025

v. :

JOSEPH ALEXANDER SCIOSCIA, III, :

: Attorney Registration No. 328676

Respondent :

: (Allegheny County)

JOINT PETITION IN SUPPORT OF DISCIPLINE  
ON CONSENT UNDER RULE 215(d), Pa.R.D.E.

Petitioner, Office of Disciplinary Counsel, by Thomas J. Farrell, Chief Disciplinary Counsel, and LaTammie D. Bivins, Disciplinary Counsel, and Respondent, Joseph Alexander Scioscia, III., Esquire, by and through counsel, Ryan H. James, Esquire, file this Joint Petition In Support Of Discipline On Consent Under Rule 215(d), Pa.R.D.E. and respectfully represent as follows:

1. Petitioner, whose principal office is located at Pennsylvania Judicial Center, Suite 2700, 601 Commonwealth Avenue, P. O. Box 62485, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17106-2485, is invested, pursuant to Rule 207 of

**FILED**  
**04/28/2026**  
**The Disciplinary Board of the**  
**Supreme Court of Pennsylvania**

the Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement (hereafter "Pa.R.D.E."), with the power and the duty to investigate all matters involving alleged misconduct of an attorney admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and to prosecute all disciplinary proceedings brought in accordance with the various provisions of the aforesaid Rules.

2. Respondent, Joseph Alexander Scioscia, III., was born on December 31, 1986.

3. Respondent was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on November 12, 2020.

4. Respondent's attorney registration mailing address is Sean Logue and Associates 27 W. Main Street, Carnegie, PA 15106.

5. Respondent is presently on active status.

6. Respondent is subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

#### SPECIFIC FACTUAL ADMISSIONS

#### CHARGE I: CHRISTOPHER STANFORD

7. On February 18, 2015, at docket number CP-10-CR-0000833-2014 in the Court of Common Pleas of Butler County Pennsylvania, Christopher Michael Stanford (Mr. Stanford) was sentenced to confinement for a term between 18 and 240 months following a conviction for Rape of a

Child, Statutory Sexual Assault: 11 years older, Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse with/child, Aggravated Indecent Assault-Comp less than 13 years old, Aggravated Indecent Assault-Comp Less than 16, and Endangering Welfare of Children and Corruption of Minors.

8. On March 30, 2022, Mr. Stanford filed a pro se Petition for Post-Conviction Collateral Relief (PCRA).

9. By Order of Court dated May 2, 2022 (the Order), issued by the Honorable Kelley T.D. Streib, Respondent was appointed to represent Mr. Stanford through the post-conviction collateral proceedings and directed to file an amended petition or no-merit letter within sixty days of the docket entry of the Order.

10. Respondent received a copy of the Order, yet he failed to contact Mr. Stanford.

11. Mr. Stanford filed a pro se Request for Reproduction of Record, which was denied without prejudice by Order of Court dated May 10, 2022, because of Respondent's court appointment to Mr. Stanford's case.

12. Having not heard from Respondent since his court appointment, on June 23, 2022, Mr. Stanford filed a pro se Request for Leave of Court to Appoint New Counsel (Request), alleging that Respondent had not contacted him since Respondent's appointment to his case.

13. Respondent received a copy of Mr. Stanford's Request.

14. Respondent failed to contact Mr. Stanford.

15. On or about July 11, 2022, Mr. Stanford filed an amended PCRA, wherein he alleged that Respondent abandoned his duties as directed under the Order.

16. Mr. Stanford also filed a pro se Motion to Dismiss Court Appointed Counsel alleging Respondent's failure to perform any actions on his behalf.

17. Respondent received Mr. Stanford's motions; however, he failed to contact him.

18. On August 11, 2022, Respondent filed a Motion to Grant Time Extension for an additional 60 days to file Mr. Stanford's PCRA claim, along with a proposed Order wherein Respondent identified Sean Logue as Mr. Stanford's attorney.

19. By Order of Court dated August 12, 2022, Respondent's motion was granted, and Respondent and/or Mr. Logue were provided an additional sixty days in which to file Mr. Stanford's amended PCRA petition.

20. On August 17, 2022, Mr. Stanford filed a second motion to have Respondent dismissed from his case and to have a new PCRA Counsel appointed to his case.

21. Respondent received a copy of the motion, but he again failed to contact Mr. Stanford.

22. By petition filed on August 31, 2022, Mr. Stanford requested the Court's consideration of his motions to have Respondent removed from his case and asked to have new counsel appointed.

23. Respondent failed to provide Mr. Stanford with any status updates regarding his case.

24. Respondent had no direct or indirect communications with Mr. Stanford since his appointment to the case.

25. Throughout his representation of Mr. Stanford, Respondent failed to communicate with him or to take any appreciable action on his behalf.

26. Respondent was removed from Mr. Stanford's case by Order of Court dated April 6, 2023.

27. The Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) issued a Letter of Inquiry (DB-7) on January 3, 2023.

28. Respondent received the DB-7 but failed to respond.

29. On February 7, 2023, ODC sent Respondent a reminder letter for his response.

30. Respondent did not respond.

31. In a letter dated April 24, 2023, ODC again reminded Respondent that it had not received an answer to the DB-7.

32. By email dated January 26, 2024, ODC granted Respondent a final opportunity to submit a Statement of Position in response to the DB-7.

33. Respondent failed to respond to the DB-7 or provide good cause for failing to respond.

#### CHARGE II: JESSICA BURGO

34. On or about August 7, 2023, Jessica Burgo (Ms. Burgo) contacted Respondent to seek representation in a civil claim raised in a letter she received from John E. Bumbaugh, Jr., Esquire, (Attorney Bumbaugh) on behalf of his client, Scott Cunningham (Mr. Cunningham).

35. Ms. Burgo retained Respondent for the representation.

36. The claims raised by Mr. Cunningham involved the recovery of the value of dogs that he had acquired with Ms. Burgo and the recovery of the security deposit paid for the apartment in which they both resided.

37. On August 7, 2023, Respondent spoke with Attorney Bumbaugh regarding the claims against Ms. Burgo.

38. Following the August 7, 2023, discussion with Attorney Bumbaugh, Respondent requested additional time in which to respond to Attorney Bumbaugh's letter to Ms. Burgo.

39. On or about August 9, 2023, Respondent informed Ms. Burgo that he had spoken with Attorney Bumbaugh and would try and work out an agreement to resolve the issues.

40. Respondent never made further contact with Attorney Bumbaugh after they spoke on August 7, 2023.

41. By check dated August 10, 2023, in the amount of \$2,500.00, made payable to Respondent, and annotated "Retainer Fee-Jess Burgo," Ms. Burgo paid the legal fees to secure Respondent's representation, and returned the signed fee agreement to him.

42. On August 23 and August 29, 2023, Attorney Bumbaugh emailed Respondent about trying to resolve his client's claims against Ms. Burgo.

43. In the August 29<sup>th</sup> email, Attorney Bumbaugh cautioned Respondent that if he did not hear back from Respondent, he would file a civil complaint against Ms. Burgo.

44. Respondent did not respond to Attorney Bumbaugh's emails.

45. On September 13, 2023, Attorney Bumbaugh filed a civil complaint against Ms. Burgo in Magisterial District 10-2-03 before District Justice Rebecca Tyburski (Magistrate Tyburski) at docket number MJ-10203-CV-0000160-2023.

46. With the exception of the August 7, 2023, phone call, Respondent did not speak with Attorney Bumbaugh on behalf of Ms. Burgo prior to Attorney Bumbaugh's filing of the civil complaint.

47. On various occasions after September 13, 2023, and through October 2, 2023, Ms. Burgo called and left messages with Respondent's secretary/paralegal requesting that Respondent return her call and provide an update regarding her legal matter.

48. Respondent did not provide any status updates to Ms. Burgo.

49. On October 3, 2023, Ms. Burgo contacted Respondent's office and spoke with Mr. Logue, Respondent's supervisor, after not being able to reach Respondent.

50. Ms. Burgo requested a refund of the legal fees paid to Respondent from Mr. Logue because Respondent had not communicated with her.

51. Mr. Logue denied Ms. Burgo's request.

52. On November 27, 2023, Respondent represented Ms. Burgo at the civil hearing held before Magistrate Tyburski.

53. The civil hearing was the first time that Respondent spoke with Attorney Bumbaugh since the August 7<sup>th</sup> conversation.

54. Judgment was entered against Ms. Burgo in the amount of \$2,020.50.

55. Ms. Burgo satisfied the judgment.

CHARGE III: GREGORY GROVER

56. On January 9, 2023, Malaysia Grover (Ms. Grover) filed a Petition for Protection from Abuse (PFA) against Gregory Grover (Mr. Grover), her husband, in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County at docket number FD-23-000132.

57. In January 2023, Mr. Grover met with Respondent to secure representation for the PFA matter and to obtain a divorce from Ms. Grover.

58. Respondent informed Mr. Grover that his fee to represent Mr. Grover regarding the PFA matter would be a flat fee of \$750.00, and that he required a \$1,000.00 retainer to represent him in a divorce.

59. Mr. Grover and Respondent signed a fee agreement.

60. Mr. Grover never received a copy of a fully executed fee agreement, despite numerous requests.

61. By check dated January 17, 2023, in the amount of \$1,750.00, made payable to Respondent, and annotated "PFA and \$1000.00 divorce retainer", Mr. Grover paid the legal fees for the representation.

62. On January 19, 2023, Respondent represented Mr. Grover at his PFA hearing, after which, a Consent Agreement and Order for Expiration of Temporary PFA was entered.

63. On February 10, 2023, Respondent filed a Complaint in Divorce (1 Count) (Divorce Complaint) against Ms. Grover on behalf of Mr. Grover at docket number FD-23-000137 in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania (Divorce Docket).

64. On or about February 14, 2023, Respondent filed an Affidavit of Service of the Complaint in Divorce with an unsigned and undated certified mail green card that reflected that the Divorce Complaint had been served upon Ms. Grover by certified mail on February 11, 2023.

65. Sometime thereafter, Respondent advised Mr. Grover that all necessary documents had been filed.

66. On January 3, 2024, Mr. Grover reached Respondent by phone and requested a status update regarding his divorce.

67. Respondent advised Mr. Grover that he would investigate the divorce status.

68. Respondent further advised Mr. Grover to text or call him regarding updates.

69. By text message to Respondent dated January 8, 2024, Mr. Grover requested a status update regarding his divorce.

70. By text message to Respondent dated January 17, 2024, Mr. Grover requested a status update regarding his divorce.

71. Thereafter, Respondent failed to provide a status update to Mr. Grover.

72. On or about January 15, 2024, Mr. Grover's father (Mr. Grover, Sr.) contacted Respondent by phone and requested an update regarding Mr. Grover's divorce.

73. Respondent informed Mr. Grover, Sr. that he had sent a letter to Mr. Grover requesting an additional retainer of \$690, which represented \$500 towards the retainer and \$190 for the filing fee to refile the divorce, and that Mr. Grover had not responded to the letter.

74. Respondent's statement was false, as no such letter had been sent to Mr. Grover.

75. By text message to Respondent dated January 15, 2024, Mr. Grover asked Respondent whether paying the \$690 was his last obligation, or words to similar effect, to have the divorce process completed.

76. Respondent did not promptly reply to Mr. Grover's January 15, 2024, text message.

77. By email dated January 25, 2024, Mr. Grover informed Respondent, among other things; that:

(a) Per their conversation over the phone on January 3rd, Respondent told Mr. Grover that Respondent would look into the status of the divorce;

(b) Respondent instructed Mr. Grover to text or call him for updates;

(c) Respondent had not replied to either;

(d) Mr. Grover spoke with Sean [Logue] on the phone today and Sean said he would look into the status of the divorce, or words of similar effect;

(e) If Respondent could please let Mr. Grover know the status of the divorce since Respondent told Mr. Grover that Respondent had filed in March of 2023; and,

(f) If Mr. Grover did not have an answer by Monday, he would start the process to pursue action to get this resolved.

78. Respondent failed to respond to the January 25, 2024 email.

79. On or about February 13, 2024, Mr. Grover again called Respondent and left a message to call him about his divorce.

80. Respondent did not return Mr. Grover's call.

81. On February 21, 2024, at the PFA Docket, Respondent filed a Certificate of Service with an attachment from the U.S. Postal Service indicating that the Divorce Complaint had been left with an individual.

82. Respondent knew, or should have known, that his service attempt of the Divorce Complaint on Ms. Grover, referenced in the February 21, 2024 filing, did not comply with the applicable Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure for out of state service of a divorce complaint.

83. By text message dated February 23, 2024, Respondent informed Mr. Grover that the final amount due from him was "\$690, the last \$500 and the \$190 filing fee, that was correct".

84. Respondent charged Mr. Grover a filing fee for the error that Respondent made regarding proper service of the Divorce Complaint.

85. Respondent failed to provide Mr. Grover with any invoices or itemized statements.

86. By check dated February 28, 2024, in the amount of \$690.00, made payable to Respondent, and annotated "Divorce Grover and filing fee", Mr. Grover paid Respondent the legal fees so that his divorce could be completed.

87. On or about March 1, 2024, Respondent negotiated the \$690.00 check.

88. In April and May of 2024, Mr. Grover attempted to reach Respondent by text message to obtain a status update regarding his divorce.

89. Respondent ignored Mr. Grover's requests for a status update regarding his divorce.

90. On June 14, 2024, Respondent re-filed Mr. Grover's Divorce Complaint.

91. Respondent failed to effectuate proper service of the Divorce Complaint on the defendant.

92. On June 20, 2024, Respondent filed signed Waivers of Notice of Intention to file a Praecipe to Transmit Record (Waivers) on behalf of Mr. Grover and Ms. Grover at the PFA docket.

93. Neither Mr. Grover nor Ms. Grover signed the Waivers.

94. In June 2024, in response to a request for an update, Respondent informed Mr. Grover that he was "waiting for the judge and that these things take time".

95. Respondent knew that his statement to Mr. Grover regarding the status of his divorce was false.

96. On various occasions between August of 2024 and December of 2024, Mr. Grover attempted to obtain status updates regarding his divorce from Respondent.

97. Respondent failed to respond to Mr. Grover's requests for status updates.

98. On January 3, 2025, Mr. Grover contacted Respondent's office and spoke with Mr. Logue regarding his inability to reach Respondent to obtain a status update for his divorce.

99. Mr. Logue informed Mr. Grover that Respondent was on vacation, but that he would convey Mr. Grover's message upon Respondent's return.

100. Respondent received the message, but he failed to contact Mr. Grover to provide a status update.

101. By text message dated January 10, 2025, Mr. Grover informed Respondent, among other things, that:

(a) He was "reaching out regarding the divorce with Malaysia Grover seeing if he could get some updates on case docket FD 23-000132";

(b) "[He] talked to the courts and they said the last time it was submitted that it was submitted with insufficient service under PA law";

(c) It was "'left with individual' and a green card with no signature to confirm service";

(d) “[It’s] been two years and he needed [the divorce] done since it’s causing financial damage with taxes”; and,

(e) “Let him know when Respondent could give him a call.”

102. Respondent failed to respond to Mr. Grover’s text message dated January 10, 2025.

103. On or about January 15, 2025, by message through Respondent’s firm’s messaging system, Mr. Grover stated, among other things, that:

(a) “Still no update on the divorce from Joe or your firm”;

(b) “No fee dispute, no update, no proof of work being done to correct error made from last year”;

(c) His wife lives in Maine, and provided her address;

(d) He could not complete this himself without legal assistance from his lawyer who was retained since Respondent set up a mutual no contact order;

(e) He had a question regarding what needed to be done after confirmation from the court that it was insufficiently filed; and,

(f) [Respondent] needed to do various things that were set forth in his email.

104. Respondent failed to respond to Mr. Grover's January 15, 2025 message.

105. By letter dated January 17, 2025, sent to Respondent by certified mail, tracking number 958907105270235411046, delivered on January 21, 2025, Mr. Grover informed him, among other things, of the following:

(a)“Despite signing a retainer agreement with your office, I have never received a copy of it. I have repeatedly requested this document, and yet I have not been provided with it. As a client, it is my right to have access to this agreement for reference”;

(b)“You assured me that you would send me documentation of the work completed on my case, including receipts of payments and proof of progress. You promised to mail these materials promptly, but I have not received any such documentation to date. This lack of transparency is extremely concerning, as I have no clear record of work completed or payments made.”

(c)“The Affidavit of Service filed on 2/14/23 indicates that the complaint was sent by certified mail, but the green card was neither signed nor dated, rendering the service invalid under

Pennsylvania law. Furthermore, the service attempted on 2/21/24 was also insufficient. These service failures have left my case stalled and unable to proceed.“

(d)“In February 2024, you requested an additional \$690 to ‘submit the case’ and complete the filing. I paid this amount promptly, but no further action was taken, and the case remains incomplete. Your assurance that this payment would finalize the process has not been fulfilled, and no progress has been made since.”

(e)“I have made repeated attempts to contact you and your office via phone calls, emails, and text messages, yet I have received no response. On January 3, 2025, I spoke briefly with Sean Logue, who assured me that someone would get back to me, but since then, I have heard nothing despite daily attempts to reach your office. This lack of communication is unacceptable and unprofessional.”

(f) “On January 2, 2025, I received an email from the Allegheny County Civil Division stating that the divorce pleadings are incomplete and noting that the service of the Complaint is invalid due to the errors in the Affidavit of service. This failure to

properly serve the divorce complaint is directly attributable to your mishandling of the case. The email further outlined the steps required to move the case forward, which have not yet been taken”.

(g)“Given the gravity of these issues, I request the following:

(i) Immediate Correction of Service: Please ensure that the divorce complaint is properly served in accordance with Pennsylvania Law, and that the service is documented correctly with the court.

(ii) Completion of Required Filings: Provide detailed timeline for the completion of all necessary filings to move the divorce process forward.”

(iii) “Timely response: I expect a detailed written response by January 25, 2025, with a clear plan of action to resolve these issues.”

106. Mr. Grover concluded the letter by informing Respondent that if there was no meaningful progress with his case, he would file a formal complaint against him and seek to recover the fees that were paid to Respondent for the representation.

107. The certified letter was received by Respondent’s office.

108. Mr. Grover never received a response to his January 17, 2025, letter.

109. Mr. Grover filed a claim with the Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security to recover \$690 in costs paid for Respondent's representation.

110. Thereafter, Mr. Grover hired new counsel to complete his divorce.

111. Mr. Grover's divorce decree was granted on August 13, 2025.

112. By check dated August 19, 2025, Sean Logue PLLC issued a refund in the amount of \$1,500 to Mr. Grover.

#### CHARGE IV: JENNIFER LAMBERT

113. On November 14, 2024, Jennifer Lambert (Ms. Lambert), on behalf of her daughter Lindsay Lambert (Lindsay), contacted the Logue Law Group (the Firm) and spoke with Respondent about the Firm representing Lindsay regarding a non-traffic citation that she received for allegedly carrying a false identification card (minor) while in Pittsburgh, PA.

114. Ms. Lambert was referred to the Firm through her Met Life Legal Plan.

115. The Firm participates in Met Life's Legal Plan.

116. Respondent informed Ms. Lambert that the Firm could represent Lindsay regarding the non-traffic citation, and that he would contact Ms. Lambert once he received a hearing date.

117. On December 14, 2024, Ms. Lambert called and spoke with Respondent about Lindsay's case.

118. During this conversation, Ms. Lambert asked Respondent about submitting a request to the Court that the hearing be held via Zoom, or other virtual platform used by the court system, because:

(a) Lindsay was attending college in Alabama; and,

(b) It would be costly for her to get Lindsay to the hearing.

119. Respondent informed Ms. Lambert that he would enter the Firm's appearance on behalf of Lindsay within the next few days.

120. Respondent also told Ms. Lambert that he would contact her when the hearing was scheduled.

121. Respondent committed to making the request for Lindsay's hearing to be held virtually.

122. On December 17, 2024, Mr. Logue entered his appearance on behalf of Lindsay and entered a Not Guilty Plea for her.

123. By email dated December 18, 2024, Attorney Logue informed Ms. Lambert that Lindsay's hearing had been scheduled for February 6, 2025, at 8:30 am.

124. By email dated December 20, 2024, Ms. Lambert expressed the following:

(a) She thanked Mr. Logue for confirming the Court date.

(b) She informed Mr. Logue that she had left Respondent a message and then requested that he confirm if she would be working with him or with Respondent.

(c) She informed Mr. Logue that Lindsay was an academically driven college student in Alabama, and she preferred to not miss three days of school to fly to Pittsburgh for the hearing.

(d) She asked him if it was possible to have Court over Zoom so that Lindsay did not have to miss classes.

(e) Lindsay believed that the police officer told her that it was possible.

(f) She asked how it could be done and ended the email by stating that she looked forward to hearing back from Mr. Logue or Respondent.

125. Neither Respondent nor Mr. Logue responded to Ms. Lambert's December 20, 2024, email.

126. Having not heard back from Mr. Logue, by email dated January 8, 2025, Ms. Lambert informed Respondent of the following:

(a) She reminded Mr. Logue that she had previously emailed him and left messages for him.

(b) She asked for an update of the status of their request for Lindsay's court hearing on February 6, 2025, to be held remotely.

(c) She told him that Lindsay had just learned that she had a test on the day she would need to return from the hearing.

(d) She had Googled steps to request a remote hearing and learned that the request must be made at least 14 days prior to the hearing.

(e) She stated that she did not know if there was something she could do.

127. On January 14, 2025, Ms. Lambert spoke with Respondent regarding Lindsay's upcoming Court date and asked if he had requested a remote hearing.

128. Respondent informed Ms. Lambert that he had made the request.

129. Neither Respondent, nor anyone else in the Firm, had requested that Lindsay's hearing be held via Zoom or conducted as a remote hearing.

130. The Court did not receive a written request from Respondent, nor anyone else in the Firm, for Lindsay's hearing to be conducted virtually.

131. On January 30 and 31, 2025, Lindsay called Respondent and left voicemail messages for him to call her about the upcoming hearing.

132. Respondent did not respond to Lindsay's January 30 and 31, 2025 messages.

133. On February 3, 2025, Lindsay again called the Firm and left a message for someone to call her about her upcoming case.

134. Neither Respondent, nor anyone else from the Firm, contacted Lindsay about her upcoming hearing date.

135. Having not heard from Respondent or the Firm, Lindsay traveled from Alabama to Pennsylvania for the hearing.

136. Respondent did not appear at or represent Lindsay at the February 6, 2025, hearing.

137. Respondent did not advise Lindsay that she would be unrepresented.

138. Respondent did not contact Lindsay to inform her that he was delayed.

139. Lindsay's hearing was held without her having the benefit of legal counsel.

140. By email to Mr. Logue dated February 7, 2025, Ms. Lambert expressed the following:

(a) Respondent was unprofessional;

(b) Respondent failed to return Lindsay's phone calls prior to the hearing;

(c) Respondent failed to appear at the Court hearing; and

(d) Respondent was dishonest about having requested the remote hearing instead of directing them to make the request of the Court on their own.

141. Neither Respondent nor Mr. Logue responded to Ms. Lambert's email dated February 7, 2025.

142. Respondent's failure to request and/or schedule a remote hearing resulted in Ms. Lambert and Lindsay incurring expenses for her to travel to Pittsburgh for the hearing.

#### CHARGE V: CRIMINAL CONVICTION

143. On October 23, 2024, in the matter of *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania v. Joseph A. Scioscia, III*, in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County at docket number CP-02-CR-0002940-2024, Respondent

entered a guilty plea to the offense of: **Count 1** Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol or Controlled Substance, 75 Pa.C.S.A. § 3802(b), 2<sup>nd</sup> offense, misdemeanor first degree; **Count 3**, Driving While Operating Privileges Suspended or Revoked, 75 Pa.C.S.A. §1543(a), a summary offense.

144. On November 6, 2024, in the matter of *Commonwealth v. Joseph Alexander Scioscia*, at docket number CP-02-CR-0000670-2023, after the Court revoked ARD, Respondent pled guilty to **Count 3**, Driving Under the Influence: Gen Impairment/Incapable of Driving Safely, 1<sup>st</sup> offense, 75 Pa.C.S.A. §3802(a)(1), an ungraded misdemeanor.

145. On November 6, 2024, at CP-02-CR-0000670-2023, the Honorable Kelly Bigley sentenced Respondent to County Regular Probation for six months to be supervised by Allegheny County Probation. Probation terms included that all ARD fines/costs and restitution, with the exception of the expungement fee, remained in effect. The Department of Court Records (DCR) was to add any amount of new fees, and a DCR civil judgment fee associated with the Order of Sentence. A \$300 fine was imposed. Respondent was ordered to receive a drug and alcohol evaluation and comply with the recommendation of assessment and attend Safe Driving School.

146. On January 28, 2025, at CP-02-CR-0002940-2024, the Honorable Thomas P. Caulfield sentenced Respondent, on **Count 1**, to six months of Probation with Restrictive Conditions to be supervised by Allegheny County Probation. The conditions are that Respondent is permitted work, medical, and education release. He must receive a drug and alcohol evaluation and drug screening and attend Safe Driving School and surrender his driver's license. Respondent was placed on electronic monitoring for 30 days and ordered to pay fines totaling \$950. No further penalty was imposed at **Count 3**.

#### SPECIFIC RULE VIOLATIONS

147. By his conduct, as set forth in paragraphs 6 through 146, Respondent admits that he violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct and Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement:

(a) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.1 - A lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client. Competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation.

(b) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.3 - A lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client.

(c) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.4(a)(1) - A lawyer shall promptly inform the client of any decision or circumstance with respect to which the client's informed consent, as defined in Rule 1.0(e), is required by these Rules.

(d) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.4(a)(2) - A lawyer shall reasonably consult with the client about the means by which the client's objectives are to be accomplished.

(e) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.4(a)(3) - A lawyer shall keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the matter.

(f) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.4(a)(4) - A lawyer shall promptly comply with reasonable requests for information.

(g) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.4(b) - A lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation.

(h) Rule of Professional Conduct 3.2 - A lawyer shall make reasonable efforts to expedite litigation consistent with the interests of the client.

(i) Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4(b) - It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to commit a criminal act that reflects

adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects.

(j) Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4(c) - It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

(k) Rule of Disciplinary Enforcement 203(b)(1) - Conviction of a crime shall be grounds for discipline.

(l) Rule of Disciplinary Enforcement 203(b)(7) - Failure by a respondent-attorney without good cause to respond to Disciplinary Counsel's request or supplemental request under Disciplinary Board Rules, §87.7(b) for a statement of the respondent-attorney's position shall be grounds for discipline.

#### SPECIFIC JOINT RECOMMENDATION FOR DISCIPLINE

148. The Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) and Respondent jointly recommend that the appropriate discipline for Respondent's admitted misconduct is a suspension of one year and one day.

149. Respondent hereby consents to the discipline being imposed upon him. Attached to this Petition is Respondent's executed Affidavit required by Rule 215(d), Pa.R.D.E., stating that he consents to the

recommended discipline and includes the mandatory acknowledgements contained in Rule 215(d)(i)-(iv), Pa.R.D.E.

150. In support of Petitioner's and Respondent's joint recommendation, it is submitted that the following mitigating circumstances are present:

(a) Respondent has accepted responsibility for his misconduct by agreeing to consent discipline in this matter;

(b) Relative to his criminal convictions, Respondent satisfied all court-ordered obligations. He completed an independent evaluation conducted by his primary care physician and followed through on all recommended treatment. He also engaged with Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers.

(c) In a disciplinary hearing, Respondent would have presented the following character witnesses: Joseph Horowitz, Esq., Joseph Pometto, Esq., Laura Pitchford, Esq., Benjamin Simon, Esq., and William DeForte, Chief of Police of Washington Regional Department.

(i) Each witness would have testified that they were aware of the nature of the above recited conduct.

(ii) Each lawyer witness, except Will DeForte, would have testified to observing or working with the Respondent in a professional legal setting, either as colleagues or opposing counsel. They would have testified to Respondent's professionalism, and their general surprise regarding the instant charged conduct, as that conduct does not comport with their experiences with Respondent based on their observations.

(iii) Every witness would have testified to the Respondent's good character for truthfulness and honesty, and that they have never heard anyone say anything negative about Respondent's character.

(iv) Every witness would have testified to Respondent's sense of service and duty to others, his strong work ethic, and his good disposition.

(v) Every witness would have testified that the charged conduct, while surprising, would not have changed their testimony.

(d) Respondent has no record of prior discipline since his admission in 2020;

151. In addition to the mitigating factors cited herein, Respondent represents that in a hearing, he would have further offered the following information regarding his misconduct:

(i) At the time of the conduct animating these charges, Respondent was a newly admitted attorney with less than five years practice experience. He was admitted to the Pennsylvania bar on November 12, 2020, and the bulk of the conduct at issue occurred during his second and third years of practice.

(ii) Respondent did not enter practice in a mentorship environment suited to cultivating sound professional habits. The supervision structure available to him fell short of what a young attorney needs to develop professionally responsible practices, and he navigated that deficit largely on his own.

(iii) Prior to law school, Respondent served for four years at the United States Air Force Academy and received an honorable discharge.

(iv) Respondent's discharge from the military was necessitated by his need to return home to care for his mother who was battling a terminal cancer diagnosis at the time, while his father was deployed.

(v) Respondent has faced challenging and lamenting circumstances, too, in the loss of his younger brother two days before Christmas, during his second year of law school. The loss was sudden, devastating, and left a lasting mark on Respondent's life.

(vi) Grief from the death of his brother was a contributing factor to Respondent's first DUI offense. That offense arose from an occasion on which Respondent drank to excess during a remembrance of the anniversary of his brother's death. The second DUI offense, which occurred approximately one year later, had no comparable contextual explanation. Respondent accepts full responsibility for both of those offenses without qualification.

(vii) Until recently, Respondent served as a primary caregiver — alongside his parents — for his maternal

aunt, who had Down Syndrome. In her final years, his aunt's condition was further complicated by dementia, Alzheimer's disease, and severe mood disorders. She passed away in August 2025. Respondent's caretaking responsibilities ran concurrent with the professional misconduct that is the subject of these charges and placed significant additional demands on Respondent during the formative years of his practice.

(viii) Respondent has undergone a substantial personal transformation since his convictions. Since the Fall of 2024, Respondent has lost nearly 75 pounds through sustained work with a nutritionist and personal trainer — an improvement he attributes in significant part to his reduction in alcohol consumption. He has abstained from alcohol almost entirely as part of this broader lifestyle change. He has sought and received grief counseling from his life-long parish priest to help him work through the loss of his brother. Overall, these changes have meaningfully improved Respondent's

mental clarity, discipline, and capacity to manage stress.

(ix) Respondent has implemented reforms to the communication and workflow systems in his practice and has also made improvements to his document management and record-keeping.

152. Although there is no per se rule for discipline for attorneys who neglect multiple clients, a suspension of one year and one day is within the range of discipline imposed:

In ***Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Paul T. Sosnowski***, No. 87 DB 2025 (S.Ct. Order 12/22/2025), Mr. Sosnowski was suspended on consent for one year and one day for, amongst other things, failing to participate in discovery on behalf of his clients in a civil matter, and then abandoning them on the eve of trial. His clients were forced to hire new counsel and were precluded from introducing any evidence at trial. Mr. Sosnowski failed to reply to the DB-7 in the matter. Mr. Sosnowski also pleaded guilty to DUI. Like Respondent, Mr. Sosnowski had no prior history of discipline.

In ***Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Daniel Michael Dixon***, No. 174 DB 2020 (S.Ct. Order 3/20/2022), Mr. Dixon was suspended for one year and one day for engaging in deceptive practices to conceal his failure to

timely file an appeal on behalf of clients. Mr. Dixon had no prior history of discipline.

In ***Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Corey James Adamson*** , No. 87 DB 2022 (S.Ct. Order 7/12/2022), Mr. Adamson was suspended on consent for one year and one day for his neglect and dishonesty in multiple client matters. Mr. Adamson failed to provide status updates to his clients and then made misrepresentations that led his clients to believe that their matters were progressing when they were not. Like Respondent, Mr. Adamson had no prior history of discipline.

In ***Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Brian Oliver Williams***, No. 38 DB 2022 (S.Ct. Order 4/19/2022), Mr. Williams was suspended for one year and one day for neglecting clients in ten separate matters over a seven-month period. Mr. Williams' neglect included, but was not limited to, failure to appear in court on behalf of his clients; failure to communicate with clients; and failure to file documents on behalf of his clients. Like Respondent, Mr. Williams had no prior history of discipline

WHEREFORE, Petitioner and Respondent respectfully request that:

- a. Pursuant to Rule 215(e) and 215(g), Pa. R.D.E., the Three-member Panel of the Disciplinary Board review and approve the above Joint Petition In

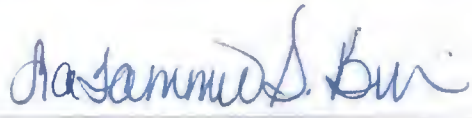
Support Of Discipline On Consent and file its recommendation with the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in which it is recommended that the Supreme Court enter an Order that Respondent receive a suspension of one year and one day, and that Respondent comply with all of the provisions of Rule 217, Pa. R.D.E.; and

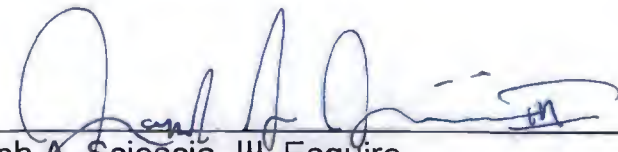
- b. Pursuant to Pa. R.D.E. 215(i), the Three-member Panel of the Disciplinary Board enter an order for Respondent to pay the necessary expenses incurred in the investigation and prosecution of this matter, and that under Pa. R.D.E. 208(g)(1) all expense be paid by Respondent within 30 days after the notice of the taxed expenses is sent to Respondent.

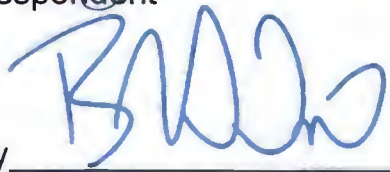
Respectfully and jointly submitted,

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

THOMAS J. FARRELL  
CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

By   
\_\_\_\_\_  
LaTammie D. Bivins  
Disciplinary Counsel

By   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph A. Scioscia, III, Esquire  
Respondent

By   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan H. James, Esquire  
Counsel for Respondent

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL,:

Petitioner

: No. 112 DB 2025

v.

JOSEPH ALEXANDER SCIOSCIA, III,

: Attorney Registration No. 328676

Respondent

: (Allegheny County)

VERIFICATION

The statements contained in the foregoing Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent Under Rule 215(d), Pa.R.D.E. are true and correct to the best of my knowledge or information and belief and are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. §4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

4/28/2026

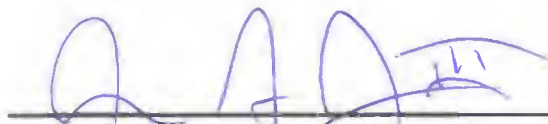
Date



LaTammie D. Bivins  
Disciplinary Counsel

4/22/2026


Date



Joseph Alexander Scioscia, III.  
Respondent

4/27/26

Date



Ryan H. James, Esquire  
Counsel for Respondent

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, :

Petitioner :

No. 112 DB 2025

v. :

JOSEPH ALEXANDER SCIOSCIA, III, :

Attorney Registration No. 328676

Respondent :

(Allegheny County)

AFFIDAVIT UNDER RULE 215(d), Pa.R.D.E.

Respondent, Joseph Alexander Scioscia, III. Esquire, hereby states that he consents to a Suspension of one year and one day, as jointly recommended by Petitioner, Office of Disciplinary Counsel, and Respondent, in the Joint Petition in Support Of Discipline On Consent, and further states that:

1. He is an attorney admitted in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, having been admitted to the bar on November 12, 2020.

2. He desires to submit a Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent Pursuant to Rule 215(d), Pa.R.D.E.

3. His consent is freely and voluntarily rendered; he is not being subjected to coercion or duress; and he is fully aware of the implications of submitting this affidavit.


4. He is aware that there is a pending proceeding involving allegations that he has been guilty of misconduct, as set forth in the Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on consent Pursuant to Rule 215(d), Pa.R.D.E., to which this affidavit is attached.

5. He acknowledges that the material facts set forth in the Joint Petition are true.

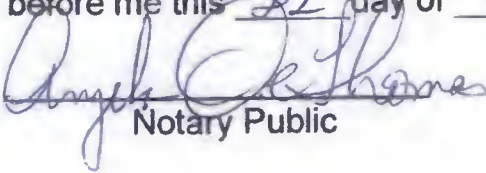
6. He consents because he knows that if the matter pending against him is prosecuted, he could not successfully defend against the charges.

7. He acknowledges that he is fully aware of his right to consult and employ counsel to represent him in the instant proceeding. He has retained, consulted or acted upon the advice of counsel in connection with his decision to execute the within Joint Petition.

It is understood that the statements made herein are subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S.A. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

  
Joseph Alexander Scioscia, III., Esquire  
Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed  
before me this 22 day of April, 2026.

  
Notary Public

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal  
ANGELA DETHOMAS - Notary Public  
Washington County  
My Commission Expires January 16, 2028  
Commission Number 1261124

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, :

Petitioner :

No. 112 DB 2025

v. :

JOSEPH ALEXANDER SCIOSCIA, III, :

Attorney Registration No. 328676

Respondent :

(Allegheny County)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I am this day serving the foregoing documents upon all parties of record in this proceeding in accordance with the requirements of 204 Pa.C.S. §89.22 (relating to service by a participant).

By electronic mail as follows:

Ryan H. James, Esquire

[ryan@rhjameslaw.com](mailto:ryan@rhjameslaw.com)




Dated: 4/28/2026

LaTammie D. Bivins, Reg. No. 79599  
Disciplinary Counsel  
Office of Disciplinary Counsel  
District IV Office  
Suite 1300, Frick Building  
437 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
(412) 565-3173

**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts* that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

Submitted by: LaTammie D. Bivins  
Signature:   
Name: LaTammie D. Bivins  
Attorney No. (if applicable): 79599