

**BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL,	:	No. 119 DB 2020
Petitioner	:	
	:	File No. C1-19-811
v.	:	
	:	Attorney Registration No. 58914
BENJAMIN COOPER	:	
Respondent	:	(Montgomery County)

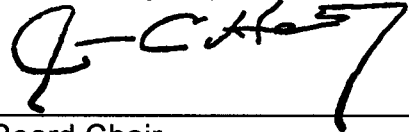
ORDER

AND NOW, this 20th day of August, 2020, in accordance with Rule 208(a)(5), Pa.R.D.E., the determination by a Review Panel of the Disciplinary Board of the above captioned matter is accepted; and it is

ORDERED that the said BENJAMIN COOPER of Montgomery County be subjected to a **PUBLIC REPRIMAND** by the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania as provided in Rule 204(a)(5) and Rule 205(c)(8) of the Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement.

Costs shall be paid by the Respondent.

BY THE BOARD:



Board Chair

TRUE COPY FROM RECORD

Attest:



Marcee D. Sloan, Board Prothonotary
The Disciplinary Board of the
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

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PUBLIC REPRIMAND

By Order dated August 20, 2020, the Disciplinary Board directed that Benjamin Cooper receive a public reprimand.

Respondent's conduct concerns his representation of John Lynch in a criminal case in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. On April 28, 2017, Respondent was court-appointed to represent Mr. Lynch, and after being convicted and sentenced, Mr. Lynch filed a pro se Notice of Appeal to the Superior Court. Respondent remained as counsel, but failed to enter his appearance as directed by the Superior Court until the Court twice ordered him to do so. Respondent then abandoned his client. On July 16, 2019, the Superior Court dismissed the appeal due to Respondent's failure to file a brief.

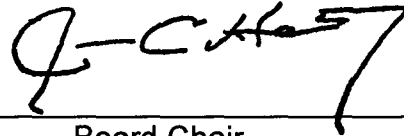
By his conduct, Respondent violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct ("RPC"):

1. RPC 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;

2. RPC 1.3 – A lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client; and
3. RPC 8.4(d) – It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice.

Respondent has a history of private discipline since his admission to practice law in 1990, which serves as an aggravating factor in this matter.

Respondent's conduct in this matter is public. This Public Reprimand is a matter of public record and shall be posted on the Disciplinary Board's website at www.padisciplinaryboard.org

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. C. Hayes", written over a horizontal line.

Board Chair