

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

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL,	:	No. 140 DB 2018
Petitioner	:	
	:	File No. C1-17-159
v.	:	
	:	Attorney Registration No. 49422
DEAN IAN WEITZMAN	:	
Respondent	:	(Philadelphia)

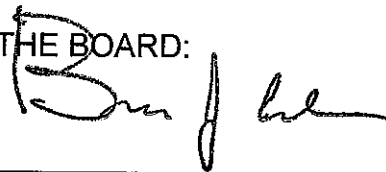
ORDER

AND NOW, this 30<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2018, 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 DEAN IAN WEITZMAN 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.

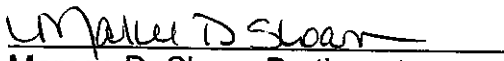
Costs shall be paid by the Respondent.

BY THE BOARD:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair

TRUE COPY FROM RECORD  
Attest:

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

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**PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

Dean Ian Weitzman, you stand before the Disciplinary Board, your professional peers and members of the public for the imposition of a Public Reprimand. It is an unpleasant task to publicly reprimand one who has been granted the privilege of membership in the bar of this Commonwealth. Yet as repugnant as this task may be, it has been deemed necessary that you receive this public discipline.

Mr. Weitzman, the record demonstrates that you failed to properly supervise a disbarred attorney who worked for you as a legal assistant. At all times relevant, you were the managing partner of the law firm of Silvers, Langsam & Weitzman, P.C., which also goes by the trade name of "MyPhillyLawyer." Adrian Joseph Moody is a formerly admitted attorney who was disbarred on consent from the bar of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by Order of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania dated June 26, 2015, effective July 26, 2015.

In or about November 2016, you and your firm established a business relationship with Mr. Moody that resulted in Mr. Moody being employed or retained by, or associated with you and your firm. You were aware at all times that Mr. Moody was a disbarred lawyer. You and Mr. Moody discussed Mr. Moody working as a legal assistant

on a part-time basis at your firm's Center City location, with the firm also operating an office from a location on North 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, which is where Mr. Moody had maintained his law office prior to disbarment. You agreed to place your firm's trademark sign at that location in exchange for rent. You and Mr. Moody discussed having a receptionist at the North 22<sup>nd</sup> Street office direct potential clients to your firm's Center City office.

In February 2017, your firm's signage was placed outside the North 22<sup>nd</sup> Street office and Mr. Moody commenced working for you and your firm. As part of the business relationship with you and your firm, you knew that Mr. Moody had obtained business cards that stated "Adrian J. Moody J.D. MyPhillyLawyer" on the front, along with the North 22<sup>nd</sup> Street address. At that time, you had not notified the Disciplinary Board that you were employing and supervising Mr. Moody, nor had Mr. Moody notified the Board.

Although the intent of your agreement with Mr. Moody was for him to work at your Center City office several days per week, this did not occur. Instead, Mr. Moody conducted intake of potential clients for your firm at the North 22<sup>nd</sup> Street office and thereafter directed those clients to your firm's Center City office. The record demonstrates that Mr. Moody admitted that he interviewed five or six potential clients on behalf of you and your firm, and your firm compensated Mr. Moody for each legal matter that he referred to your firm.

By using the North 22<sup>nd</sup> Street office for the purpose of meeting and interviewing potential clients for later referral to you and your firm, and by distributing business cards to members of the public, Mr. Moody misled those persons with whom he had come into contact that he remained eligible to practice law in the Commonwealth.

By letter dated April 27, 2017, you notified the Board that you were employing and supervising Mr. Moody. At that time, you began to have concerns about Mr. Moody's employment because he was not working from your Center City office as you had originally agreed, and on several occasions, other attorneys interacted with Mr. Moody as if he were a practicing attorney. You also reconsidered having Mr. Moody use "J.D." after his name without language to indicate he was not a practicing lawyer.

In May 2017, you decided to terminate Mr. Moody's employment and by May 11, 2017, your firm's signage was removed from the North 22<sup>nd</sup> Street office. These actions occurred after you were served by Office of Disciplinary Counsel with a DB-7 letter investigating this matter. In your response to ODC's letter, you acknowledged and regretted that you had established an employment relationship with Mr. Moody that did not function within the ethical rules.

In September 2017, you agreed to rehire Mr. Moody as a legal assistant. He works at the firm's Center City Office and is supervised by you and another attorney at that office. You complied with the rule by notifying the Board of Mr. Moody's employment.

Your conduct in this matter has violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct and Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement:

1. RPC 5.3(b) – In that you failed to make reasonable efforts to ensure that the conduct of your legal assistant, Adrian Joseph Moody, a formerly admitted attorney, was compatible with your professional obligations.
2. RPC 7.1, RPC 8.4(a) and Pa.R.D.E. 217(d)(2) – In that you authorized Mr. Moody to obtain and use business cards that either expressly or

implicitly conveyed that Mr. Moody was eligible to practice law in the Commonwealth.

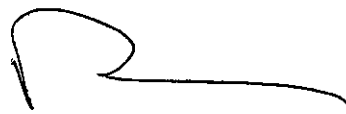
3. RPC 8.4(d) – In that you knew that Mr. Moody was required to comply with all of the provisions of Pa.R.D.E. 217 based on the Court's June 26, 2015 Order that disbarred him, but you failed to properly supervise Mr. Moody to ensure Mr. Moody's compliance with the disbarment order.
4. Pa.R.D.E. 203(b)(3) *via* 217(j)(6) – In that you failed to properly supervise Mr. Moody's compliance with all of the provisions of subdivision (j) of Pa.R.D.E. 217.
5. Pa.R.D.E. 217(j)(2)(ii), 217(j)(3), 217(j)(4)(ii), and 217(j)(4)(v) – in that Mr. Moody had in-person contact with clients at an office location that was not staffed full-time by you or another designated supervising attorney from your firm, and the contact that Mr. Moody had with those clients concerned matters that were not merely ministerial in nature.
6. Pa.R.D.E. 217(j)(5) – In that you failed to file with the Disciplinary Board a notice: stating that your law firm had engaged Mr. Moody as a legal assistant; identifying you as the supervising attorney; and, certifying that Mr. Moody's activities would be monitored for compliance with subdivision (j) of Rule 217.

In aggravation, we note that you have a prior history of discipline in Pennsylvania consisting of a suspension for a period of three years, based on your criminal conviction of three counts of attempting to evade or defeat tax.

Mr. Weitzman, your conduct in this matter is now fully public. This Public Reprimand is a matter of public record.

As you stand before the Board today, we remind you that you have a continuing obligation to abide by the Rules of Professional Conduct and Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement. This Public Reprimand is proof that Pennsylvania lawyers will not be permitted to engage in conduct that falls below professional standards. Be mindful that any future dereliction will subject you to disciplinary action.

This Public Reprimand shall be posted on the Disciplinary Board's website at [www.padisciplinaryboard.org](http://www.padisciplinaryboard.org).



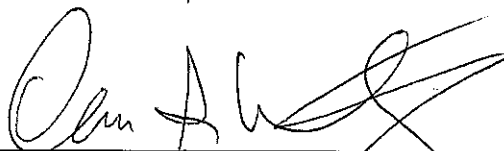
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Designated Member  
The Disciplinary Board of the  
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

Administered by a designated panel of three Members of The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on October 19, 2018.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

The undersigned, Respondent in the above proceeding, herewith acknowledges that the above Public Reprimand was administered in his presence and in the presence of the designated panel of The Disciplinary Board at 1601 Market Street, Suite 3320, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on October 19, 2018.



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Dean Ian Weitzman