

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, : No. 2145 Disciplinary Docket No. 3
Petitioner :
 : No. 187 DB 2014
v. :
 : Attorney Registration No. 89574
CANDACE MARIE STAMOS FORD, :
Respondent : (Allegheny County)

ORDER

PER CURIAM

AND NOW, this 7th day of April, 2015, upon consideration of the Recommendation of the Three-Member Panel of the Disciplinary Board dated March 11, 2015, the Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent is hereby granted pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 215(g),
and it is

ORDERED that Candace Marie Stamos Ford is suspended on consent from the Bar of this Commonwealth for a period of one year and one day, the suspension is stayed in its entirety, and she is placed on probation for a period of two years, subject to the following conditions:

1. Respondent shall repay \$2,000 in unearned client fees at the rate of \$84.00 per month and submit copies of the monthly repayments, on a quarterly basis, to the Secretary of the Disciplinary Board;

2. Respondent shall fully comply with all Continuing Legal Education requirements prior to the due date for her Compliance Group 2, which is August 31st of each year; and

3. Respondent shall provide to the Secretary of the Board on a quarterly basis a letter from Respondent's qualified healthcare professional confirming Respondent's continued participation in counseling.

A True Copy Patricia Nicola
As Of 4/7/2015

Attest: 
Chief Clerk
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

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

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL	:	No. 187 DB 2014
Petitioner	:	
	:	
v.	:	Attorney Registration No. 89574
	:	
CANDACE MARIE STAMOS FORD	:	
Respondent	:	(Allegheny County)

**RECOMMENDATION OF THREE-MEMBER PANEL
OF THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

The Three-Member Panel of the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, consisting of Board Members Howell K. Rosenberg, Jane G. Penny, and David A. Fitzsimons has reviewed the Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent filed in the above-captioned matter on December 1, 2014, and supplemented on February 13, 2015.

The Panel approves the Joint Petition consenting to a one year and one day stayed suspension and a two year period of probation subject to the following conditions:

(1) Respondent shall repay \$2,000 in unearned client fees at the rate of \$84.00 per month and submit copies of the monthly repayments, on a quarterly basis, to the Secretary of the Disciplinary Board; and

(2) On a quarterly basis, Respondent shall provide to the Secretary a letter from Respondent's qualified healthcare professional confirming Respondent's continued participation in counseling.

The Panel further recommends that any necessary expenses incurred in the investigation and prosecution of this matter shall be paid by Respondent as a condition to the grant of this Petition.



Howell K. Rosenberg
Chair of Three Member Panel

Date: 3/11/15

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, :
 :
 Petitioner : No. ¹⁸⁷ DB 2014
 : (Complaint File Nos. C4-13-484
 v. : and C4-13-678)
 :
 CANDACE MARIE STAMOS FORD, : Attorney Registration No. 89574
 :
 Respondent : (Allegheny County)

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

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

PAUL J. KILLION
CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

Susan N. Dobbins
Disciplinary Counsel
Suite 1300, Frick Building
437 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
(412) 565-3173

and

Candace Marie Stamos Ford, Esquire
Respondent
Attorney Registration No. 89574
338 Gloria Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
(412) 414-3131

FILED

DEC 01 2014

Office of the Secretary
The Disciplinary Board of the
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, :
: Petitioner : No. DB 2014
: (Complaint File Nos. C4-13-484
v. : and C4-13-678)
: CANDACE MARIE STAMOS FORD, : Attorney Registration No. 89574
: 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 Paul J. Killion, Chief Disciplinary Counsel, and Susan N. Dobbins, Disciplinary Counsel, and Respondent, Candace Marie Stamos Ford, 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, PA 17106-2485, is invested, pursuant to Rule 207 of 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, Candace Marie Stamos Ford, was born in 1969. She was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on November 7, 2002. Respondent's attorney registration mailing address is 338 Gloria Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

3. Respondent is on active status. She is subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

SPECIFIC FACTUAL ADMISSIONS AND RULE VIOLATIONS

**FILE REFERENCE #C4-13-484
COMPLAINT OF OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL**

4. By an Annual CLE Report dated October 26, 2012, sent to Respondent at her then-attorney registration address of 26 Longvue Avenue, Wexford, PA 15090-9704, the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board (PA CLE Board) advised her, among other things, that:

(a) This Annual Report was provided to inform her of her status with the PA CLE Board requirement for the period due by August 31, 2012;

(b) Due to non-compliance with the continuing legal education ("CLE") requirement and in accordance with the Rules for CLE in Pennsylvania, a \$100 late fee had been assessed;

(c) Failure to complete her CLE requirement and pay any outstanding late fees within sixty (60) days from the date of this notice would result in the assessment of a second \$100 late fee and her name being included on a non-compliant report to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania;

(d) There were different steps for her to take to resolve non-compliance;

(e) They strongly encouraged her to take action to remedy the situation; and,

(f) Their office was available to assist her in completing her CLE requirement.

5. Respondent did not respond to the PA CLE Board in regard to their letter dated October 26, 2012.

6. By letter dated January 30, 2013, sent to Respondent at 26 Longvue Avenue, Wexford, PA 15090, the PA CLE Board informed her, among other things, that:

(a) This letter served as a second notification of non-compliance with the continuing legal education ("CLE") requirement originally due on August 31, 2012;

(b) In accordance with the Rules of CLE in Pennsylvania, a second \$100 late fee had been assessed for continued non-compliance;

(c) Failure to complete her CLE requirement and pay any outstanding late fees by 4:00 p.m. on March 1, 2013 would result in her name being included on a non-compliant report to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania;

(d) Upon receipt of this report, the Supreme Court would initiate an Order to administratively suspend her license to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and a third \$100 late fee would be assessed;

(e) There were different steps for her to take to resolve the non-compliance;

(f) They strongly encouraged her to remedy the situation before March 1, 2013; and,

(g) Their office was available to assist her in completing her CLE requirement.

7. Respondent did not respond to the PA CLE Board's letter dated January 30, 2013 before March 1, 2013.

8. By Respondent's electronic mail dated March 5, 2013, she informed the PA CLE Board that:

(a) She completed a 12 hour CLE at the University of Pittsburgh participating as a judge of a moot court competition in late 2011;

(b) Those hours had not been reflected in the transcript;

(c) She registered to complete a six hour CLE on March 15, 2013 and would take a four hour CLE to become current on the requirements; and,

(d) She would like some direction on how to avoid suspension and get credit for those hours previously mentioned or take additional CLE's immediately to become current.

9. By electronic mail dated March 6, 2013, Jason Ilgenfritz, with the PA CLE Board inquired about the exact date of the course and stated:

(a) If the provider was the University of Pittsburgh Law School (412) 648-5187, she would need to contact them to report her hours since they were an accredited provider;

(b) At this point, she needed 18 hours (including one hour of ethics);

(c) If she received 12 hours for the University of Pittsburgh course and six hours on March 15, 2013, as long as there was an hour of ethics in there, she would be compliant for 2011 and 2012; and,

(d) If she had any questions, please feel free to ask.

10. Respondent did not:

(a) Respond to Mr. Ilgenfritz's email dated March 6, 2013; or,

(b) Contact anybody else from the PA CLE in regard to the credits that she was required to take.

11. By Order of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania dated April 4, 2013, Respondent was administratively suspended pursuant to Rule 111(b), Pa.R.C.L.E., and it was further ordered that the suspension would be effective 30 days after the date of the Order pursuant to Rule 217, Pa.R.D.E.

12. By letter dated April 4, 2013, sent to Respondent at her last known attorney registration address by certified mail, return receipt requested, Suzanne E. Price, Attorney Registrar, informed her, among other things, that:

(a) The Prothonotary of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania had forwarded to them a certified copy of the Order of that Court dated April 4, 2013 (copy enclosed together with applicable page containing her name) that she would be Administratively Suspended effective May 3 [sic], 2013, for failure to comply with the Pennsylvania Rules for Continuing Legal Education due August 31, 2012 (Compliance Group 2);

(b) If she were administratively suspended, she would be required to comply with Rule 217 of the Pa.R.D.E. and §§91.91-91.99 of the Disciplinary Board Rules, as enclosed herewith;

(c) A Standard Guidance to Lawyers Who had been Administratively Suspended, Forms DB-23(a) and DB-24(a) (Nonlitigation and Litigation Notice of Administrative Suspension) were also enclosed, together with Form DB-25(a), Statement of Compliance; and,

(d) In order to resume active status, she must comply with the Pa.C.L.E. Board before a request for reinstatement to the Disciplinary Board would be considered.

13. The letter dated April 4, 2013 sent to Respondent by certified mail was unclaimed.

14. Effective May 4, 2013, Respondent was administratively suspended by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

15. Thereafter, Respondent did not comply with Rule 217 of the Pa.R.D.E. and §§91.91-91.99 of the Disciplinary Board Rules.

16. Respondent did not at that time or thereafter inform her supervisor with KidsVoice that she had been administratively suspended by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and could not practice law.

17. During the period of May 4, 2013 through May 10, 2013, Respondent practiced law while being on administrative suspension.

18. On May 9, 2013, Respondent appeared in court before dependency Hearing Officer James Alter.

19. On May 9, 2013, in Respondent's capacity as an attorney for KidsVoice, she represented in front of dependency hearing officer James Alter:

(a) Devonte M. in an emergency motion to change his placement;

(b) Javon T. in a permanency review hearing;

(c) Christine K. in a permanency review hearing;

(d) Jealynn B. in a permanency review hearing; and,

(e) Connor S. in a motion to change placement that was withdrawn.

20. At that time, Respondent:

(a) Did not have an active law license;

(b) Was not permitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania;

(c) Did not inform Hearing Officer Alter that she had been placed on administrative suspension; and,

(d) Did not advise her clients that she had been placed on administrative suspension and that she was not permitted to represent them.

21. Subsequently, Respondent left the employment of KidsVoice under her own volition.

HART

22. On October 3, 2012, Brian Hart (hereinafter, Mr. Hart) was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol or Controlled Substance, Possession or Distribution – Marijuana or Hashish, and Speeding in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

23. In about March 2013, Mr. Hart retained Respondent to represent him in regard to the criminal charges filed against him.

24. On March 14, 2013, on behalf of Mr. Hart, Respondent waived his right to a preliminary hearing and the various criminal charges filed against Mr. Hart were bound over for Common Pleas Court.

25. On March 21, 2013, the criminal charges filed against Mr. Hart were filed at docket number 3966-2013 in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County.

26. By Order of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania dated April 4, 2013, Respondent was administratively suspended pursuant to Rule 111(b), Pa.R.C.L.E. and it was further ordered that the suspension shall be effective 30 days after the date of that Order pursuant to Rule 217, Pa.R.D.E.

27. On April 30, 2013, the Information regarding the criminal charges filed against Mr. Hart was filed in his criminal matter.

28. On May 1, 2013, Respondent entered her appearance on behalf of Mr. Hart in his criminal matter filed at 3966-2013.

29. Thereafter, a Phoenix Docket Conference was set up for June 11, 2013 in Mr. Hart's criminal matter.

30. Effective May 4, 2013, Respondent was administratively suspended by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

31. Respondent did not advise Mr. Hart or Judge Rangos, to whom Mr. Hart's case was assigned, that she had been placed on administrative suspension;

32. On or about June 11, 2013, Respondent:

(a) Contacted Mr. Hart and informed him that she would not be able to attend his conference on June 11, 2013; and,

(b) Informed Mr. Hart that Attorney Christopher Urbano would be representing him.

33. On June 11, 2013, Attorney Urbano represented Mr. Hart at the Phoenix docket conference at which time Mr. Hart pled guilty to the Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol or Controlled Substance charge.

34. Respondent had not informed Attorney Urbano that she was on Administrative Suspension and could not represent Mr. Hart.

FILE REFERENCE #C4-13-484 & #C4-13-678
KEI RAMSEY PASCH'L

35. On May 17, 2012, Kei Ramsey Pasch'l (hereinafter, Mr. Pasch'l) was charged with various crimes, including Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Criminal Trespass and other criminal offenses.

36. On May 21, 2012, the criminal charges filed against Mr. Pasch'l were waived to Common Pleas Court.

37. On May 24, 2012, the original papers were received from the lower court and Mr. Pasch'l's case was docketed at 6689-2012 in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County.

38. On June 29, 2012, the criminal Information was filed in Mr. Pasch'l's criminal matter.

39. On December 2, 2012, Respondent entered into a fee agreement with Joycelyn Pavasko for Mr. Pasch'l which indicated, among other things, that:

(a) Respondent agreed that she would represent Mr. Pasch'l in his criminal matters;

(b) Mr. Pasch'l agreed to pay Respondent a flat fee of \$3,000 for her representation of Mr. Pasch'l;

(c) Respondent's retainer fee of \$3,000 would be paid on the second day of December 2012; and,

(d) Respondent's fee was non-refundable upon receipt.

40. By check number 4397, dated December 2, 2012, in the amount of \$3,000.00, and made payable to Respondent, Ms. Pavasko paid Respondent her fee to represent Mr. Pasch'l.

41. On about December 3, 2012, Respondent negotiated the \$3,000.00 check.

42. On January 9, 2013, Respondent entered her appearance on behalf of Mr. Pasch'l in his criminal matter filed at 6689-2012.

43. Thereafter, Mr. Pasch'l's jury trial was scheduled for March 25, 2013 in front of the Honorable Jill E. Rangos.

44. On March 25, 2013, Respondent requested a postponement of Mr. Pasch'l's trial which was granted until June 17, 2013.

45. By Order of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania dated April 4, 2013, Respondent was administratively suspended pursuant to Rule 111(b), Pa.R.C.L.E. and it was further ordered that the suspension shall be effective 30 days after the date of that Order pursuant to Rule 217, Pa.R.D.E.

46. Effective May 4, 2013, Respondent was administratively suspended by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

47. Respondent did not at that time or thereafter, notify Mr. Pasch'l, Assistant District Attorney Jonathan Schultz or Judge Rangos that she had been placed on administrative suspension.

48. A few days before Mr. Pasch'l's trial scheduled for June 17, 2013, he called Respondent.

49. Respondent did not inform Mr. Pasch'l that she was on administrative suspension and was unable to represent him at his trial.

50. On the morning of June 17, 2013, Respondent sent Mr. Pasch'l a text approximately forty-five minutes before Mr. Pasch'l was due in Court in which Respondent indicated that she was at Passavant Hospital and unable to attend his trial.

51. Mr. Pasch'l's criminal trial was then rescheduled for September 11, 2013.

52. Respondent was reinstated to active status on July 11, 2013.

53. On about August 27, 2013, Mr. Pasch'l texted Respondent and asked her to withdraw her appearance so he could retain other counsel.

54. On August 30, 2013, Respondent filed a Motion to Withdraw as Counsel in Mr. Pasch'l's criminal matter.

55. On September 2, 2013, the Honorable Jill E. Rangos issued an Order granting Respondent's Motion to Withdraw as Counsel on behalf of Mr. Pasch'l.

56. By letter dated September 18, 2013, Ms. Pavasko informed Respondent that:

(a) Brian Kline of the Disciplinary Board had advised them to request that Respondent return her the \$3,000.00 paid to her on December 2, 2012, for her defense of Mr. Pasch'l;

(b) Respondent did not fulfill her contract agreement;

(c) Respondent was placed on administrative suspension and did not inform them of her inability to continue the representation;

(d) On June 17, 2013, Mr. Pasch'l was left without legal representation; and,

(e) Please make the payment to her, in the amount of \$3,000, before September 28, 2013.

57. Ms. Pavasko's certified letter to Respondent was returned to her as unclaimed.

**SERVICE ISSUES AT
FILE REFERENCE #C4-13-484 & #C4-13-678**

58. Respondent was put on notice of the allegations at File No. C4-13-484 by a letter of inquiry dated June 28, 2013. The letter was sent to Respondent at her attorney registration address of 26 Longvue Avenue, Wexford, PA 15090 by first-class and certified mail. The certified mail was returned to Office of Disciplinary Counsel unclaimed. The first-class mail was not returned to Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

59. On July 30, 2013, the letter of inquiry at File No. C4-13-484 was personally served on Respondent at 26 Longvue Avenue, Wexford, PA 15090. Respondent thereafter did not respond to the letter of inquiry.

60. On September 4, 2013, Office of Disciplinary Counsel sent a reminder letter to Respondent at File No. C4-13-484 requesting a response within 10 days. The letter was sent to Respondent at her attorney registration address of 26 Longvue Avenue, Wexford, PA 15090 by first-class mail and

certified mail. The certified mail was returned to Office of Disciplinary Counsel unclaimed. The first-class mail was not returned to Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

61. On October 23, 2013, the letter dated September 4, 2013, at File No. C4-13-484 was personally served upon Respondent when she came to the District IV Office of Disciplinary Counsel to pick-up the letter.

62. Respondent was put on notice of the allegations at File No. C4-13-678 by a letter of inquiry dated September 25, 2013. The letter was sent to Respondent at her attorney registration address of 26 Longvue Avenue, Wexford, PA 15090 by first-class mail and certified mail. The certified mail was returned to Office of Disciplinary Counsel unclaimed. The first-class mail was not returned to Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

63. On October 23, 2013, the letter of inquiry at File No. C4-13-678 was personally served on Respondent when she came to the District IV Office of Disciplinary Counsel to pick-up the letter. Respondent thereafter did not respond to the letter of inquiry.

64. On November 26, 2013, Office of Disciplinary Counsel sent a reminder letter to Respondent at File No. C4-13-678 requesting a response within 30 days and advising Respondent that Office of Disciplinary Counsel may seek the imposition of discipline for her violation of Rule of Professional Conduct 8.1(b) for her failure to respond. The letter was sent to Respondent at her

attorney registration address of 26 Longvue Avenue, Wexford, PA 15090 by first-class mail and certified mail. The certified mail was returned to Office of Disciplinary Counsel unclaimed. The first-class mail was not returned to Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

65. On July 8, 2014, Respondent met with representatives of Office of Disciplinary Counsel and candidly discussed at length the pending disciplinary complaints and her personal and professional situations.

66. Since the meeting on July 8, 2014, Respondent has been in communication with and has cooperated with Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

**SPECIFIC RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT
AND DISCIPLINARY ENFORCEMENT VIOLATED**

67. By her conduct as alleged in Paragraphs 4 through 66 above, Respondent violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct and Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement:

(a) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.5(a) – A lawyer shall not enter into an agreement for, charge, or collect an illegal or clearly excessive fee.

(b) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.15(e) – Except as stated in this Rule or otherwise permitted by law or by agreement with the client or third person, a lawyer shall promptly deliver to the client or third person

any property, including but not limited to Rule 1.15 Funds, that the client or third person is entitled to receive and, upon request by the client or third person, shall promptly render a full accounting regarding the property; Provided, however, that the delivery, accounting and disclosure of Fiduciary Funds or property shall continue to be governed by the law, procedure and rules governing the requirements of Fiduciary administration, confidentiality, notice and accounting applicable to the Fiduciary entrustment.

(c) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.16(d) – Upon termination of representation, a lawyer shall take steps to the extent reasonably practicable to protect a client's interests, such as giving reasonable notice to the client, allowing time for employment of other counsel, surrendering papers and property to which the client is entitled and refunding any advance payment of fee or expense that has not been earned or incurred. The lawyer may retain papers relating to the client to the extent permitted by other law.

(d) Rule of Professional Conduct 5.5(a) - A lawyer shall not practice law in a jurisdiction in violation of the regulation of the legal profession in that jurisdiction or assist another in doing so.

(e) Rule of Professional Conduct 8.1(b) – An applicant for admission to the bar, or a lawyer in connection with a bar admission

application or in connection with a disciplinary matter, shall not: (b) fail to disclose a fact necessary to correct a misapprehension known by the person to have arisen in the matter, or knowingly fail to respond to a lawful demand for information from an admissions or disciplinary authority, except that this Rule does not require disclosure of information otherwise protected by Rule 1.6.

(f) Rule 203(b)(7), Pa.R.D.E. – The following shall also be grounds for discipline: 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.

(g) Rule 217(b), Pa.R.D.E. – A formerly admitted attorney shall promptly notify, or cause to be notified, by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, all clients who are involved in pending litigation or administrative proceedings, and the attorney or attorneys for each adverse party in such matter or proceeding, of the disbarment, suspension, administrative suspension or transfer to inactive status and consequent inability of the formerly admitted attorney to act as an attorney after the effective date of the disbarment, suspension, administrative suspension or transfer to inactive status. The notice to be given to the client shall advise the prompt substitution of another attorney or attorneys in place of the formerly admitted attorney. In the event the client does not

obtain substitute counsel before the effective date of the disbarment, suspension, administrative suspension or transfer to status, it shall be the responsibility of the formerly admitted attorney to move in the court or agency in which the proceeding is pending for leave to withdraw. The notice to be given to the attorney or attorneys for an adverse party shall state the place of residence of the client of the formerly admitted attorney.

(h) Rule 217(e)(1), Pa.R.D.E. – Within ten days after the effective date of the disbarment, suspension, administrative suspension or transfer to inactive status order, the formerly admitted attorney shall file with the Board a verified statement showing: (1) that the provisions of the order and these rules have been fully complied with.

(i) Rule 217(j)(1), Pa.R.D.E. – A formerly admitted attorney may not engage in any form of law-related activities in this Commonwealth except in accordance with the following requirements: (1) All law-related activities of the formerly admitted attorney shall be conducted under the supervision of a member in good standing of the Bar of this Commonwealth who shall be responsible for ensuring that the formerly admitted attorney complies with the requirements of this subdivision (j). If the formerly admitted attorney is engaged by a law firm or other organization providing legal services, whether by employment or other relationship, an attorney of the firm or organization shall be designated by

the firm or organization as the supervising attorney for purposes of this subdivision.

(j) Rule 217(j)(2)(i), Pa.R.D.E. – A formerly admitted attorney may not engage in any form of law-related activities in this Commonwealth except in accordance with the following requirements: (2) For purposes of this subdivision (j), the only law-related activities that may be conducted by a formerly admitted attorney are the following: (i) legal work of a preparatory nature, such as legal research, assembly of data and other necessary information, and drafting of transactional documents, pleadings, briefs, and other similar documents;

(k) Rule 217(j)(4)(ii), Pa.R.D.E. - A formerly admitted attorney may not engage in any form of law-related activities in this Commonwealth except in accordance with the following requirements: (4) Without limiting the other restrictions in this subdivision (j), a formerly admitted attorney is specifically prohibited from engaging in any of the following activities: (ii) performing any law-related services from an office that is not staffed by a supervising attorney on a full time basis;

(l) Rule 217(j)(4)(iii), Pa.R.D.E. – A formerly admitted attorney may not engage in any form of law-related activities in this Commonwealth except in accordance with the following requirements: Without limiting the other restrictions in this subdivision (j), a formerly admitted attorney is

specifically prohibited from engaging in any of the following activities: (iii) performing any law-related services for any client who in the past was represented by the formerly admitted attorney;

(m) Rule 217(j)(4)(iv), Pa.R.D.E. – A formerly admitted attorney may not engage in any form of law-related activities in this Commonwealth except in accordance with the following requirements: (4) Without limiting the other restrictions in this subdivision (j), a formerly admitted attorney is specifically prohibited from engaging in any of the following activities: representing himself or herself as a lawyer or person of similar status.

SPECIFIC JOINT RECOMMENDATION FOR DISCIPLINE

68. Petitioner and Respondent jointly recommend that the appropriate discipline for Respondent's admitted misconduct in this matter is a year and a day suspension, stayed in its entirety, and that Respondent be placed on probation for the time period of two years with the conditions of her probation being her timely compliance with all Continuing Legal Education requirements, and with all annual Attorney Registration requirements pursuant to §89.291, Disciplinary Board Rules, her repayment of \$2,000 in unearned fees in the Pasch'l matter, and her continued participation in counseling. Attached to this Petition is Respondent's executed Affidavit required by Rule 215(d)(1) – (4), Pa.R.D.E.

69. Respondent has no discipline of record.

70. In support of Petitioner and Respondent's joint recommendation, it is respectfully submitted that the proposed discipline is within the range of discipline found in similar cases:

(a) In *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. James Edward Harvin*, No. 108 DB 2008, No. 1591 Disciplinary Docket No. 3 (June 2010), the Supreme Court suspended Mr. Harvin for a period of one year and one day for his continued representation of a client in a civil matter until his representation was withdrawn by motion of opposing counsel.

(b) In *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Forrest*, No. 134 DB 2003 (2004), and *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Forman*, No. 70 DB 2001 (2003), the respondent-attorneys engaged in the unauthorized practice of law while on inactive status. These cases are noteworthy because they found that lack of notice of attorneys transferred to administrative suspension is not an excuse for the unauthorized practice of law. In those cases, the attorneys each received a year and a day suspension for their misconduct.

(c) In *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Taylor*, No. 253 DB 2010 (2011), the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court approved a joint petition in support of discipline on consent for a six-month suspension. Mr. Taylor received a six-month suspension from the practice of law for his

unauthorized practice of law for a very short period of time in January of 2010. The respondent-attorney admitted engaging in the misconduct, cooperated with Office of Disciplinary Counsel, had no record of discipline, and was remorseful for his misconduct.

(d) In *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Jennifer Lynch Jackson*, No. 107 DB 2012, No. 1889 Disciplinary Docket No. 3, (January 2013), the Disciplinary Board and the Supreme Court approved a joint petition whereby Ms. Jackson received a stayed two-year suspension with probation. Ms. Jackson's unauthorized practice of law was for an approximately three-week period and was limited in scope. However, she had previously received private discipline for similar misconduct.

71. The mitigating factors herein are:

(a) Respondent has admitted her misconduct;

(b) Since admitting her misconduct, Respondent has cooperated with Disciplinary Counsel in the prosecution of the within matter;

(c) Respondent, through the filing of this joint petition, expresses great regret and accepts responsibility for her actions;

(d) The affirmative acts of the unauthorized practice of law engaged in by Respondent were for a relatively short period of time;

(e) Respondent engaged in only "limited acts" of unauthorized practice; and,

(f) Respondent, after being contacted by Office of Disciplinary Counsel regarding the pending disciplinary matters, sought counseling and is currently in therapy.

72. Respondent is a single mother and sole provider for her three children.

73. For all of the reasons set forth above, Petitioner and Respondent believe that a year and a day suspension, stayed in its entirety, and probation for two years with the conditions of the probation being that the Respondent fully comply with all Continuing Legal Education requirements prior to the due date for her Compliance Group 2, which is August 31 of each year and with all annual Attorney Registration requirements, that she repay \$2,000 in unearned fees in the Pasch'l mater, and that she continue to participate in counseling, pursuant to §89.291, Disciplinary Board Rules, is appropriate considering all of the facts and circumstances herein.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner and Respondent respectfully request that pursuant to Rule 215(e) and 215(g), Pa.R.D.E., the three member panel of the Disciplinary Board review and approve this Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent Under Rule 215(d), Pa.R.D.E. and file its recommendation with the

Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, in which it is recommended that the Supreme Court enter an Order imposing upon Respondent a stayed year and a day suspension, with probation.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

PAUL J. KILLION
CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

By *Susan N. Dobbins*
Susan N. Dobbins
Disciplinary Counsel

and

By *Candace Marie Stamos Ford*
Candace Marie Stamos Ford, Esquire
Respondent

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, :

Petitioner

No. DB 2014

(Complaint File Nos. C4-13-484

and C4-13-678)

v.

CANDACE MARIE STAMOS FORD

Attorney Registration No. 89574

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 our knowledge or information and belief and are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. §4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

11/25/14
Date

Susan N. Dobbins
Susan N. Dobbins
Disciplinary Counsel

11/25/14
Date

Candace Marie Stamos Ford
Candace Marie Stamos Ford, Esquire
Respondent

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, :
: No. DB 2014
Petitioner : (Complaint File Nos. C4-13-484
: and C4-13-678)
v. :
: :
CANDACE MARIE STAMOS FORD, : Attorney Registration No. 89574
: :
Respondent : (Allegheny County)

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

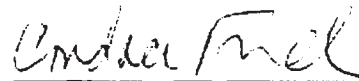
Respondent, Candace Marie Stamos Ford , hereby states that she consents to a suspension of a year and a day suspension, stayed in its entirety, and probation for two years with the condition of the probation being that the Respondent fully comply with all Continuing Legal Education requirements prior to the due date for her Compliance Group 2, which is August 31 of each year, pursuant to §89.291, Disciplinary Board Rules, 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. Her consent is freely and voluntarily rendered; she is not being subjected to coercion or duress; and she is fully aware of the implications of submitting the consent and she has not consulted with counsel in connection with the decision to consent to discipline;

2. She is aware that there are pending proceedings involving allegations that she has been guilty of misconduct as set forth in the Joint Petition;

3. She acknowledges that the material facts set forth in the Joint Petition are true; and,

4. She consents to the recommended discipline because she knows that if the charges pending at file reference Nos. C4-13-484 and C4-13-678 continued to be prosecuted, she could not successfully defend against them.



Candace Marie Stamos Ford, Esquire
Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed
before me this 25th
day of November, 2014.



Notary Public

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

NOTARIAL SEAL

Brian J. Kline, Notary Public

City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County

My commission expires November 24, 2015

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL,	:	No. Disciplinary Docket
	:	No.
	:	
Petitioner	:	No. DB 2014
	:	(Complaint File Nos. C4-13-484
v.	:	and C4-13-678)
	:	
CANDACE MARIE STAMOS FORD,	:	Attorney Registration No. 89574
	:	
Respondent	:	(Allegheny County)

ORDER

PER CURIAM

AND NOW, this _____ day of _____, 2014, upon consideration of the recommendation of the Three-Member Panel of the Disciplinary Board dated _____, the Joint Petition in Support of Disciplinary on Consent is hereby granted pursuant to Rule 215(g), Pa.R.D.E., and it is

ORDERED that Candice Marie Stamos Ford is suspended on consent from the Bar of this Commonwealth for a period of a year and a day, the suspension is stayed in its entirety, and she is placed on probation for a period of two years subject to the following conditions that she shall fully comply with all Continuing Legal Education requirements prior to the due date for her Compliance Group 2, which is August 31 of each year and with all Attorney Registration requirements, that she shall repay \$2,000 in unearned fees in the Pasch'l matter, and that she continue with counseling.