

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

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL	:	No. 189 DB 2012
Petitioner	:	
	:	
v.	:	Attorney Registration No. 60488
	:	
ERIC REGINALD BOWMAN	:	
Respondent	:	(Out of State)

PUBLIC REPRIMAND

Eric Reginald Bowman, 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. We note that you agreed to a Public Reprimand by a joint petition in support of discipline on consent.

Mr. Bowman, in August 2010, you were retained by Gary Contessa to represent seventeen of Mr. Contessa's employees in their immigration matters. This involved obtaining for each either an H2B visa or a visa extension. You provided Mr. Contessa with a retainer agreement wherein it was stated that Mr. Contessa was hiring your law firm to prepare and file H2B petitions and extensions of stay for temporary workers from November 20, 2010 to April 2011. Mr. Contessa forwarded to you a check dated August 25, 2010 in the amount of \$8,000, which was for the estimated legal fee of \$5,000 and \$3,000 to cover costs. You cashed the check at Key Bank and failed to deposit the \$8,000 into a trust account. You did not obtain Mr. Contessa's informed consent to handle the fees and expenses in a different manner.

By email dated November 3, 2010 to Mr. Contessa, you noted that new cases had been sent to you and requested another retainer check for \$8,000 to cover the new cases. Mr. Contessa responded by email of November 3, 2010 and stated that he would not send additional money in the event more names were added. Additionally, he disputed that \$8,000 was necessary and stated that if the cost for each additional employee was \$800, he would send you \$5,600. On December 13, 2010, Mr. Contessa forwarded to you a check in the amount of \$5,600. You cashed this check on December 16, 2010 at M & I Bank. You failed to deposit the money into a trust account. In addition, you failed to maintain complete records of fiduciary funds.

Your conduct in this matter has violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct:

1. RPC 1.15(i) – A lawyer shall deposit into a Trust Account legal fees and expenses that have been paid in advance, to be withdrawn by the lawyer only as fees are incurred or expenses incurred unless the client gives informed consent, confirmed in writing, to the handling of fees and expenses in a different manner.
2. RPC 1.15(c) – Complete records of the receipt, maintenance and disposition of Rule 1.15 Funds and property shall be preserved for a period of five years after termination of the client-lawyer or Fiduciary relationship or after distribution or disposition of the property, whichever is later.

A condition of this Reprimand is that you will submit to the jurisdiction of a fee dispute proceeding in or outside of Pennsylvania and be bound by the decision if Mr. Contessa commences such a proceeding.

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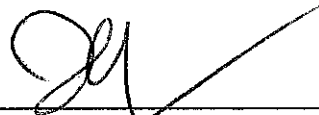
You have a record of discipline in Arizona. You received a public censure in 2005 for your representation of four clients before the Immigration and Naturalization Service. In 2009, you received an informal reprimand with two years of probation.

In the instant matter, you admitted engaging in misconduct and cooperated with Petitioner.

Mr. Bowman, 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.

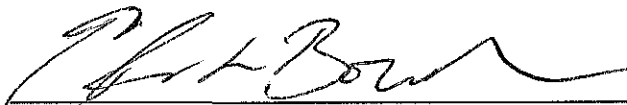


Designated Member
The Disciplinary Board of the
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

Administered by a designated panel of three Members of The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on July 12, 2013.

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 16th Floor, Seven Penn Center, 1635 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on July 12, 2013.



Eric Reginald Bowman