

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, : No. 2778 Disciplinary Docket No. 3
: :
Petitioner : No. 20 DB 2021
: :
: Attorney Registration No. 87547
v. : :
: (Bradford County)
: :
CHAD MICHAEL SALSMAN, : :
: :
Respondent :

ORDER

PER CURIAM

AND NOW, this 17th day of August, 2021, upon consideration of the Verified Statement of Resignation, Chad Michael Salsman is disbarred on consent from the Bar of this Commonwealth, retroactive to March 25, 2021. See Pa.R.D.E. 215. Respondent shall comply with all of the provisions of Pa.R.D.E. 217 and pay costs to the Disciplinary Board pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 208(g).

A True Copy Patricia Nicola
As Of 08/17/2021

Patricia Nicola
Attest:
Chief Clerk
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, : No. 2778 Disciplinary Docket No. 3
Petitioner :
 : 20 DB 2021
 :
v. : ODC File No. C3-19-875
 :
CHAD MICHAEL SALSMAN, : Attorney Reg. No. 87547
Respondent :
 : (Bradford County)

RESIGNATION STATEMENT UNDER PA. R. D. E. 215

I, Chad M. Salsman, hereby resign from the practice of law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in conformity with Rule 215 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement (hereafter "Pa.R.D.E."), and further state as follows:

1. I was admitted to the bar of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on October 29, 2001. My registration number is 87547.
2. I desire to resign from the Bar of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
3. This resignation is freely and voluntarily rendered.
4. I am not being subjected to coercion or duress.
5. I am fully aware of the implications of submitting this resignation, including the fact it is irrevocable, and that I can only apply for reinstatement to the practice of law pursuant to the provisions of Pa.R.D.E. 218(b).
6. I acknowledge that I am fully aware of my right to consult and employ counsel to represent me in the instant proceeding. I have retained, consulted with, and acted upon the advice

FILED
07/09/2021
The Disciplinary Board of the
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

of counsel, Samuel Stretton, Esquire, in connection with my decision to execute the within resignation.

7. I am aware of a pending investigation by the Office of Disciplinary Counsel into matters which are also the subject of a criminal prosecution in the Court of Common Pleas of Bradford County, Pennsylvania (“trial court”), docketed at No. CP-08-CR-0080-2021.

8. Office of Disciplinary Counsel filed a Petition for Emergency Temporary Suspension on February 19, 2021, which resulted in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s March 25, 2021, Order of Temporary Suspension.

9. On May 7, 2021, I pled guilty to one count of promoting prostitution, a felony of the third degree; one count of obstruction of law, a misdemeanor of the second degree; and one count of intimidation of witnesses or victims, a misdemeanor of the second degree.

10. I acknowledge that the factual basis for this plea is that I did: exchange legal services/fees for sexual acts with L.J., N.A., H.H., A.M., L.W. thereby causing another to become or remain a prostitute and did direct those persons to refrain from reporting crimes to law enforcement and did pervert the administration of justice by seeking to influence grand jury witnesses.

11. I acknowledge the material facts, as set forth in the plea agreement, are true. The Guilty Plea Agreement is attached hereto and incorporated herein as “**Exhibit A.**”

12. I am submitting this resignation because I know and acknowledge that my conduct violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct (hereinafter “RPC”): 1.2(d) - counseling a client to engage in criminal conduct, 1.5(a) – illegal fee agreements, 1.6(a) - confidentiality of information, 1.7(a)(2) - conflicts of interest-personal interest, 1.8(b) - misuse of client information, 1.8 (j) - involving sexual relations with clients, and 8.4(a)-(e) - engaging in misconduct.

13. I also know and acknowledge that my criminal conviction, in and of itself, constitutes an independent basis for discipline pursuant to Pennsylvania Rule of Disciplinary Enforcement 203(b)(1).

14. I could not successfully defend against charges predicated upon the misconduct under investigation.

15. I am aware that pursuant to Enforcement Rule 215(c), the fact that I have tendered my resignation shall become a matter of public record immediately upon delivery of the resignation statement to Disciplinary Counsel or the Secretary of the Board.

16. Upon entry of the disbarment Order, I will promptly comply with the notice, withdrawal, resignation, trust account, and cease-and-desist provisions of Enforcement Rule 217(a)-(d).

17. After entry of the disbarment Order, I will file a verified statement of compliance, as required by Enforcement Rule 217(e)(1).

18. I am aware that the waiting period for eligibility to apply for reinstatement to the practice of law under Enforcement Rule 218(b) shall not begin until I file the verified statement of compliance required by Enforcement Rule 217(e)(1). However, if the disbarment Order contains a provision that makes the disbarment retroactive to an earlier date, then the waiting period will be deemed to have begun on that earlier date.

19. I request that my disbarment be made retroactive to the date of my temporary suspension. I understand that the decision whether to grant retroactivity is solely within the discretion of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. I further understand that the Office of Disciplinary Counsel opposes this request.

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

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2021.

Chad M. Salsman, Respondent

Date

Witness

discretion of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. I further understand that the Office of Disciplinary Counsel opposes this request.

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

Signed this 6th day of July, 2021.

Chad M. Salsman
Chad M. Salsman, Respondent

7/6/21
Date

Sam Stretton
Witness
Sam Stretton

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA : **CRIMINAL DIVISION**
vs : **NO. CP-08-CR-0080-2021**
CHAD SALSMAN : **Charge: Promoting Prostitution (F3)**
: **Intimidation (M2), etc.**

GUILTY PLEA AGREEMENT

1. I AM ENTERING A PLEA OF **GUILTY** to the following criminal offense(s):

Ct	Offense	Gr	OGS	Mit	Stand	Agg	Sentence
1-3	Sexual Assault	-	-	-	-	-	Nol Pros
4-9	Intimidation of witnesses or victims	-	-	-	-	-	Nol Pros
10	Promoting Prostitution	F3	5	-3	RS-9	+3	Guilty
11	Promoting Prostitution	-	-	-	-	-	Nol Pros
12	Obstruction of Law	M2	5	-3	RS-9	+3	Guilty
13	Obstruction of Law	-	-	-	-	-	Nol Pros
14-18	Indecent Assault	-	-	-	-	-	Nol Pros
19	Intimidation of witnesses or victims	M2	3	-3	RS-1	+3	Guilty
20-24	Intimidation of witnesses or victims	-	-	-	-	-	Nol Pros

*Sentence ranges based on PRS of 0

THIS IS AN OPEN PLEA. THE COURT WILL DETERMINE THE SENTENCE FOLLOWING ARGUMENT BY THE PARTIES. DEFENDANT AGREES TO PAY THE COSTS OF PROSECUTION.

2. THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR CRIMINAL OFFENSES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Grading	Max. Jail	Max. Fine	Grading	Max. Jail	Max. Fine
M1:	FIVE (5) YRS	\$10,000.00	F1:	TWENTY (20) YRS	\$25,000.00
M2:	TWO (2) YRS	\$5,000.00	F2:	TEN (10) YRS	\$25,000.00
M3:	ONE (1) YR	\$2,500.00	F3:	SEVEN (7) YRS	\$15,000.00

3. **FACTUAL BASIS FOR PLEA OF NO CONTEST.** I understand all of the elements of each offense listed above and acknowledge that the following statement is true and correct:

I, Chad Salsman, did exchange legal services/fees for sexual acts with L.J., N.A., H.H., A.M., L.W. thereby causing another to become or remain a prostitute and did direct those persons to refrain from reporting crimes to law enforcement and did pervert the administration of justice by seeking to influence grand jury witnesses. These offenses occurred in Bradford County, Pennsylvania.

4. TERMS OF THIS GUILTY PLEA AGREEMENT. The Commonwealth and the Defendant agree that all the terms and conditions in consideration of this no contest plea are set forth in this document and with the additional conditions below:

A. The Commonwealth accepts the Defendant's guilty plea to the charges (as enumerated in this agreement) in full satisfaction of all charges. Any charges/counts dismissed by the Commonwealth are dismissed pursuant to, and are referenced within, this plea agreement.

B. In the event the Defendant withdraws his plea, all charges will be reinstated as filed without prejudice and fully prosecuted.

C. The Defendant will withdraw all pretrial motions (if any) not already decided by the Court.

D. Defendant is entering this plea having reviewed the charging documents with a full understanding of the allegations, statutory offenses and the elements of said offenses.

E. The Defendant agrees that he is entering a guilty plea to Promoting Prostitution, Intimidation of Witnesses or Victims, and Obstruction of Law, as amended, to include criminal conduct related to a factual basis involving all 5 victims referenced in the criminal information.

F. The Commonwealth and the victim(s) may make remarks at sentencing consistent with this agreement. All victims have been consulted pursuant to the Pennsylvania Victim's Rights Act and have agreed to this non-trial resolution.

G. The Defendant, pursuant to this plea and as a condition of this plea, hereby resigns as the District Attorney of Bradford County and surrenders any claim to that elected office.

H. NO CONTACT CLAUSE: The Defendant will have no contact by or through any means with the victim(s) or her family - *with the exception of contact through legal counsel for any collateral legal matters.*

5. THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE SENTENCE. I am aware that the penalties for each of the above criminal offenses can be added together by the Court at sentencing for a possible total maximum sentence in this case of:

11 years incarceration and \$25,000.00 in fines.

6. THE MANDATORY MINIMUM SENTENCE. I realize that the following mandatory minimum sentences apply in this case:

N/A

7. THINGS THAT COULD AUTOMATICALLY INCREASE MY SENTENCE. I realize that there may be increases to my sentence because a weapon was possessed or used, or because of the age of the victim, or the location of my crime as follows:

N/A

8. THE SENTENCING COURT IS NOT BOUND BY ANY TERM AS TO THE SENTENCE CONTAINED IN THIS AGREEMENT. I acknowledge that any terms related to a sentence set forth in paragraph 4 above are not binding on the Court and I have not been guaranteed a specific sentence in exchange for this plea. The Court retains the power to decide my sentence.

9. THE RIGHTS I GIVE UP BY ENTERING A GUILTY PLEA. I understand that the law presumes me innocent and requires proof beyond a reasonable doubt to convict me of any crime. I understand that by entering a GUILTY plea, I am no longer presumed innocent. The Court will convict me based on the recitation of facts presented by the Commonwealth, and my acceptance of the evidence against me for those charges pursuant to this agreement. Furthermore, I acknowledge the additional rights I possess which are listed below, and give them up as part of my GUILTY plea. I understand that a GUILTY plea is a "conviction" and will appear on my criminal record.

- To have a trial by jury of 12 people from the community, or by a judge alone.
- To participate in the selection of a jury, and to challenge any juror for cause, and exercise any peremptory challenges that I am entitled to.
- To require the Commonwealth to prove my guilt beyond a reasonable doubt as to each and every element of the offenses charged.
- To cross-examine Commonwealth witnesses, to compel any witness to testify on my behalf, to justify myself or choose to remain silent at trial. If I remain silent, the judge would tell the jury they cannot infer guilt because of it.
- To have my attorney file and litigate pre-trial motions as necessary, including those challenging illegal evidence, or seeking dismissal of the case on legal grounds, or to challenge anything that may have been improper in the investigation and prosecution of my case by the Commonwealth.

10. OTHER IMPORTANT CONSEQUENCES OF MY GUILTY PLEA. I understand that by entering a GUILTY plea I will be convicted of a crime(s) and there may be some collateral consequences of this criminal conviction. Collateral consequences include the ability of the prosecution to hold this conviction against me in the future if I am charged with other crimes. The consequences may include but are not limited to the loss or restriction of a professional license, loss of voting rights, ineligibility for jury duty, ineligibility for public funds including welfare benefits and student loans, inability to own firearms, and could be a factor to be considered when determining custody of my children. Immigrants, including those who, while not U.S. citizens, hold permanent resident status may undergo deportation or be refused reentry into the United States. A plea to a sexual offense may require me to register as a convicted sex offender for a period of time as required by law to include up to my lifetime. Lawmakers may in the future add further collateral consequences to criminal conviction that we have no way to predict now.

11. **SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATOR ASSESSMENT (if applicable):** To make such determination, the Court must Order that you be assessed by the Sexual Offender Assessment Board (SOAB). This Board will review a number of factors and then make a determination as to whether or not you meet the criteria of a Sexually Violent Predator. If the Board makes such determination, the following will occur:
- a. Office of Attorney General will file a praecipe for a hearing to determine your status with this Court.
 - b. The Commonwealth must prove by clear and convincing evidence that you are a Sexually Violent Predator.
 - c. You will have the opportunity to present evidence to contest this finding.
 - d. You will have the right to an attorney at this hearing, and if you cannot afford an attorney, one will be appointed for you.
 - e. If the Court makes a finding that you are a Sexually Violent Predator, you will have additional reporting requirements.

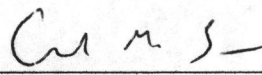
NOTE: The appointments with the Sexual Offender Assessment Board are scheduled at the convenience of the Board. You must notify the Board, Attorney General, and your Defense Counsel of any change of address, phone number and emergency contact number.

12. **I KNOW WHAT I AM DOING AND IT IS VOLUNTARY.** I am not mentally disabled or under the influence of any drugs or alcohol. I am not suffering from any disability which affects my own free will, and am free of duress. I am giving up my rights knowingly, voluntarily and intelligently.
13. **MY APPEAL RIGHTS ARE LIMITED AFTER PLEA.** I retain the right to contest only the following things on appeal after I am sentenced:
- a. Jurisdiction of the Court;
 - b. Legality of the sentence; and/or
 - c. Validity of this plea, including claims involving my constitutional right to effective counsel.
14. **I HAVE CONFERRED WITH MY ATTORNEY BEFORE THIS PLEA.** I have had an opportunity to discuss this plea agreement with my attorney, with whom I am satisfied.
15. **THE COURT CAN REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED PLEA.** I understand that the Court is not required to accept this plea agreement. If it does not, then the proposed plea does not become final and I retain my rights to a trial.
16. **In the event I withdraw my plea, or the Court rejects this plea, the Commonwealth would proceed to trial on all filed charges with no charges being nol prossed (dismissed) by the Commonwealth.** I understand this would increase my potential exposure and maximum penalties if convicted of those additional offenses which are otherwise nol prossed pursuant to this agreement.

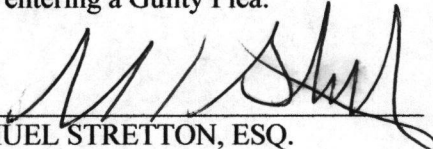
GUILTY PLEA OF CHAD SALSMAN

I SWEAR AND AFFIRM THAT I HAVE READ THIS DOCUMENT IN ITS ENTIRETY OR HAD IT EXPLAINED TO ME, AND THAT I UNDERSTAND IT COMPLETELY, AND I BELIEVE THIS GUILTY PLEA IS IN MY BEST INTEREST.

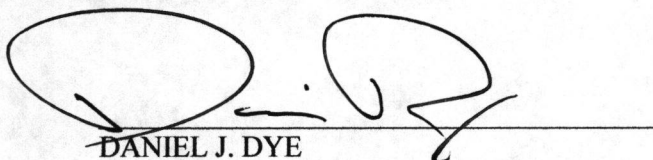
BY SIGNATURE BELOW I ENTER A GUILTY PLEA TO THE OFFENSE(S) SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS PLEA AGREEMENT FORM, WHICH IS FINAL WHEN ACCEPTED BY THE COURT.

Defendant's Signature  Date 5-7-21
CHAD SALSMAN

DEFENSE ATTORNEY CERTIFICATION. I certify with this Defendant that: (1) I have explained this plea agreement and the Defendant's rights to the Defendant; (2) he/she wishes to enter an Guilty Plea; (3) I have discussed the facts and the law of this case with the Defendant; and (4) I believe the Defendant understands the consequences of entering a Guilty Plea.

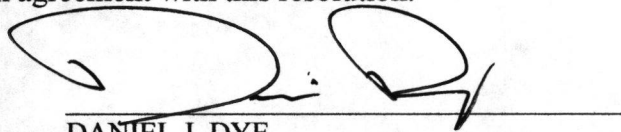
Attorney for Defendant  Date 5/7/21
SAMUEL STRETTON, ESQ.

For the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

 Date 5/7/21
DANIEL J. DYE
Assistant Chief Deputy Attorney General

Victim Notification pursuant to 18 Pa. C.S.A. §11.201:

I hereby certify that I, or my representatives, have provided the victim the date and location of the expected plea and have fully discussed this plea and its terms with the victims who are in agreement with this resolution.

 Date 5/7/21
DANIEL J. DYE
Assistant Chief Deputy Attorney General

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: Office of Disciplinary Counsel

Signature: 

Name: Jessica L. Torres_____

Attorney No. (if applicable): 323038