

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL : No. 26 DB 2023  
Petitioner :  
: File No. C1-21-516  
v. :  
: Attorney Registration No. 92176  
RICHARD JOHN GERACE :  
Respondent : (Philadelphia)

**ORDER**

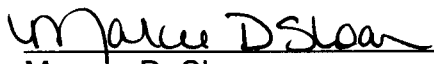
AND NOW, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023, in accordance with Rule 208(a)(5), Pa.R.D.E., the determination by a Review Panel of the Disciplinary Board of the above captioned matter is accepted; and it is

ORDERED that the said RICHARD JOHN GERACE be subjected to a PUBLIC REPRIMAND by the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania as provided in Rule 204(a) 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

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

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL,	:	No. 26 DB 2023
Petitioner	:	
	:	File No. C1-21-516
	:	
v.	:	
	:	Attorney Registration No. 92176
RICHARD JOHN GERACE,	:	
Respondent	:	(Philadelphia)

**PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

Richard John Gerace, you appear before the Disciplinary Board for the imposition of a Public Reprimand ordered by the Board on February 15, 2023. It is an unpleasant task to publicly reprimand one who has been granted the privilege of membership in the bar of the Commonwealth. Yet as repugnant as this task may be, it has been determined necessary that you receive this public discipline.

Mr. Gerace, this matter involves disparaging statements you made concerning the integrity of the Honorable Jeffrey G. Trauger, President Judge of the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas. You made these statements either knowing them to be false, or with reckless disregard as to their truth or falsity. The record shows that you represented your clients, the D'Angelos, in a matter against JP Morgan Chase Bank in the Court of Common Pleas of Bucks County. In the course of the litigation, which had gone on for many years, on or about August 6, 2021, Judge Trauger entered an order granting summary judgment on the claims then remaining against defendant JP Morgan. On September 6, 2021, you filed a Motion for Reconsideration of Judge Trauger's August 6, 2021 Order. In that motion, you made numerous averments that impugned the integrity and impartiality of Judge Trauger and attacked him as biased in

favor of JP Morgan. For example, you averred that the “disregard of Plaintiff’s responses to JP Morgan’s summary judgment motion shows this Court has stepped over the line of impartiality to side with a criminal organization and the lawyers who lie to support that organization.”

On October 1, 2021, you filed Plaintiff’s Concise Statement of Errors Complained of on Appeal. In the Concise Statement, you again made numerous allegations regarding the integrity of Judge Trauger—statements which you knew to be false or without reckless disregard to their truth or falsity. You averred, in part, that the Judge “has, by mistake or design...abrogated his duty to uphold the integrity and independence of the judiciary.” You further averred that the Judge, “by mistake or design...unfairly favored JP Morgan and its lawyers who openly perpetrated fraud on the Court and on Plaintiffs, by wholly disregarding the false representations and false statements issued by JP Morgan and its Attorneys throughout these proceedings.” You further averred that “this Court has deliberately abrogated its duties as a fair and impartial court.” Throughout the proceedings, you never filed a motion seeking Judge Trauger’s recusal.

On October 15, 2021, Judge Trauger issued his 1925(a) Opinion and explained his reasoning for granting summary judgment against your clients. You did not retract any of the statements you made in your Concise Statement; however, in the brief you filed in the Superior Court, you toned down the highly charged statements that you made in your Concise Statement.

By your conduct, you violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct (“RPC”):

1. RPC 3.1 – A lawyer shall not bring or defend a proceeding, or assert or controvert an issue therein, unless there is a basis in law and fact for doing so that is not frivolous, which includes a good faith argument for an extension, modification or reversal of existing law.
2. RPC 8.2(a) – A lawyer shall not make a statement that the lawyer knows to be false or with reckless disregard as to its truth or falsity concerning the qualifications or integrity of a judge, adjudicatory officer or public legal officer, or of a candidate for election or appointment to judicial or legal office.
3. RPC 8.4(d) – It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice.

Mr. Gerace, your 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](http://www.padisciplinaryboard.org).

It is the Board's duty to reprimand you for your misconduct. We note that you have no record of discipline since your admission to practice law in the Commonwealth in 2003. Please be aware that any subsequent violations on your part can only result in further discipline and perhaps more severe sanctions. We sincerely hope that you will conduct yourself in such a manner that future disciplinary action will be unnecessary.

*s/David Senoff*

---

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 on April 10, 2023.