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

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL,

: No. 52 DB 2025

Petitioner

: File Nos. C4-22-496 & C4-23-727

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: Attorney Registration No. 93813

ALBERT GREEN REESE, JR.

Respondent

: (Allegheny County)

## ORDER

AND NOW, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025, 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 ALBERT GREEN REESE, JR. of Allegheny County be subjected to a **PUBLIC REPRIMAND** by the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania as provided in Rule 204(b) and Rule 205(c)(8) of the Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement.

Costs shall be paid by the Respondent.

BY THE BOARD:

David S. Seroff

**Board Chair** 

TRUE COPY FROM RECORD

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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

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ALBERT GREEN REESE, JR.,

Respondent

(Allegheny County)

## **PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

Albert Green Reese, Jr., you appear before the Disciplinary Board for the imposition of a Public Reprimand ordered by the Board on May 14, 2025. By letter dated May 14, 2025, the Board notified you of the disposition of this matter and further notified you of your opportunity to demand as of right the institution of formal charges within twenty days of the date of notification. You did not demand the institution of formal charges; therefore, you accept this public reprimand.

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 found necessary that you receive this public discipline.

Attorney Reese, the record demonstrates your misconduct in two matters involving your mishandling of client funds, failure to maintain required financial records under RPC 1.15, and lack of diligence. The first matter came to the attention of Office of Disciplinary Counsel ("ODC") on a report of an overdraft of your IOLTA. ODC's subsequent investigation revealed that you mismanaged your IOLTA by depositing your own funds into the account, allowing earned fees to remain in the account, failing to appropriately maintain entrusted funds, and using funds belonging to one client to satisfy obligations to

another client. You failed to keep required RPC 1.15(c) financial records, failed to maintain client ledgers, and failed to perform monthly reconciliations. While balances in the IOLTA fell below individual entrusted amounts, the records reviewed by ODC did not reveal that you misappropriated entrusted funds. Rather, you made timely disbursements and your clients and third parties received funds to which they were entitled.

The second matter involves your client, Michele Green. In 2018, you settled Ms. Green's slip and fall for \$40,000. Ms. Green's net recovery was \$23,140.65. There was a subrogation lien of \$11,906.17. In a 2018 Acknowledgement Letter presented to Ms. Green by you, Ms. Green acknowledged receipt of \$11,234.48 as partial distribution of her settlement funds. She confirmed that you would hold the full amount of the lien in your escrow account while attempting to negotiate reduction of the amount owed, and that Ms. Green would be refunded the difference between the original amount and the final agreed upon amount of the lien. Between December of 2018 and June of 2023, you failed to either obtain a reduction of the lien or pay the original amount asserted by the lienholder. In July of 2023, Ms. Green began questioning you on the lien, as she and her former husband had received emails from the lienholder. In or about October of 2023, you settled the lien for \$7,143.70 and issued a check to the lienholder. Between October of 2023 and March of 2023, you failed to remit any portion of the remaining funds to Ms. Green. You finally provided the funds in two separate payments to Ms. Green in April of 2024.

By your conduct, you violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct ("RPC") and Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement ("Pa.R.D.E."):

 RPC 1.3 – A lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client.

- RPC 1.15(b) A lawyer shall hold all Rule 1.15 Funds and property separate from the lawyer's own property. Such property shall be identified and appropriately safeguarded.
- 3. RPC 1.15(c) A lawyer shall maintain the following books and records for each Trust Account and for any other account in which Fiduciary Funds are held pursuant to Rule 1.15(i): individual client ledgers and a general ledger. A regular trial balance of the individual client trust ledgers shall be maintained. On a monthly basis, a lawyer shall conduct a reconciliation for each fiduciary account.
- RPC 1.15(d) Upon receiving Rule 1.15 Funds or property which are not Fiduciary Funds or property, a lawyer shall promptly notify the client or third person.
- 5. RPC 1.15(e) 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.
- 6. RPC 1.15(f) When in possession of funds or property in which two or more persons, one of whom may be the lawyer, claim an interest, the funds or property shall be kept separate by the lawyer until the dispute is resolved. The

lawyer shall promptly distribute all portions of the funds or property, including

Rule 1.15 Funds, as to which the interests are not in dispute.

7. RPC 1.15(h) - A lawyer shall not deposit the lawyer's own funds in a Trust

Account except for the sole purpose of paying service charges on that account,

and only in an amount necessary for that purpose.

8. Pa.R.D.E. 203(a) and 203(b)(3) - Failing to list operating accounts on your

attorney annual fee forms as required under Pa.R.D.E. 219 for the registration

periods 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025, despite being

alerted of the obligation to do so.

Attorney Reese, 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.

It is the Board's duty to reprimand you for your misconduct. Please be aware that

subsequent violations of the rules may result in further discipline and more severe

sanctions. We sincerely hope that you will conduct yourself in such a manner that future

disciplinary action will be unnecessary.

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 August 26, 2025.

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