IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, : No. 3121 Disciplinary Docket No. 3

Petitioner, : No. 73 DB 2025

v. : Attorney Registration No. 79731

(Dhiladalahia)

: (Philadelphia) PAUL MORRIS BERMAN, :

:

Respondent

<u>ORDER</u>

PER CURIAM

AND NOW, this 12th of September, 2025, upon consideration of the Verified Statement of Resignation, Paul Morris Berman is disbarred on consent from the Bar of this Commonwealth. See Pa.R.D.E. 215. Respondent shall comply with the provisions of Pa.R.D.E. 217 and pay costs to the Disciplinary Board. See Pa.R.D.E. 208(g).

A True Copy Nicole Traini As Of 09/12/2025

Chief Clerk
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, : No. 3121 Disciplinary Docket No. 3

Petitioner

: No. 73 DB 2025

٧.

: Atty. Reg. No. 79731

PAUL MORRIS BERMAN,

Respondent: (Philadelphia)

RESIGNATION UNDER Pa.R.D.E. 215

Paul Morris Berman, hereby tenders his unconditional resignation from the practice of law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in conformity with Rule 215, Pa.R.D.E. ("Enforcement Rules"), and further states as follows:

- He is an attorney admitted in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, having been admitted to the bar on or about June 2, 1997. His attorney registration number is 79731.
 - 2. He desires to submit his resignation as a member of said bar.
- 3. His resignation is freely and voluntarily rendered; he is not being subjected to coercion or duress; and he is fully aware of the implications of submitting this resignation.
- 4. He is aware that there are presently pending investigations into allegations that he has been guilty of misconduct, based upon his conviction of criminal charges as more fully set forth in the Order of Sentence and Record in a Criminal Case, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof as "Exhibit A."

FILED 08/12/2025

The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

- 5. On April 29, 2025, he pled guilty to one count of child sexual abuse material (child pornography) in the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County which conviction constitutes a <u>per se</u> ground for discipline under Enforcement Rule 203(b)(1).
- 6. He submits the within resignation because the said conviction stands as a <u>per se</u> ground for discipline under Enforcement Rules 214(e) and 203(b)(1), and because he is guilty of the crimes.
- 7. He submits the within resignation because he knows that if charges were predicated upon the conviction, he could not successfully defend against them.
- 8. He is fully aware that submission of this Resignation Statement is irrevocable and that he can only apply for reinstatement to the practice of law pursuant to the provisions of Enforcement Rule 218(b) and (c).
- 9. He is aware that pursuant to Enforcement Rule 215(c), the fact that he has tendered this resignation shall become a matter of public record immediately upon delivery of the resignation statement to Disciplinary Counsel or the Disciplinary Board Prothonotary.
- 10. Upon entry of the order disbarring him on consent, he will promptly comply with the notice, withdrawal, resignation, trust accounting, and cease-and-desist provisions of subdivisions (a), (b), (c) and (d) of Enforcement Rule 217.
- 11. After entry of the order disbarring him on consent, he will file a verified statement of compliance as required by Enforcement Rule 217(e)(1).

- 12. He is 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 he files the verified statement of compliance, and if the order of disbarment 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.
- 13. He acknowledges that he is fully aware of his right to consult and employ counsel to represent him in the instant proceeding. He has retained, consulted with and acted upon the advice of counsel in connection with his decision to execute the within resignation.

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

Signed this 5 day of August, 2025.

Paul Morris Berman

WITNESS

Eric Feder Deputy Court Administrator Director, Office of Judicial Records

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA TRIAL DIVISION - CRIMINAL OFFICE OF JUDICIAL RECORDS Juanita Kidd Stout Center for Criminal Justice 1301 Filbert Street, Room 310 Philadelphia, PA 19107 215-683-7700 (215) 683-7713 (Fax)

Marc Gaillard, Deputy Director Elaine Q. Ratliff, Deputy Director

COMMONWEALTH	:	MUNICIPAL COURT OF PHILADELPHIA
vs.	:	▼ TRIAL DIVISION—CRIMINAL
PAUL M BERMAN	:	DOCKET #_CP-51-CR-0000561-2025
case above stated, as the same now remains of IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunt	Record	y of the full, entire, and complete Record in the in this Office. y hand and affixed the seal of the said Court this
	·	
CONTROL OF JUDICIAL RECORDING		Deputy Director

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Paul M. Berman

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PHILADELPHIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

CRIMINAL DIVISION

IDOCKET NO:

CP-51-CR-0000561-2025

DATE OF ARREST:

01/06/2025 U 322652-1

OTN:

SID: DOB:

PID:

1250710

ORDER OF SENTENCE

AND NOW, this 29th day of April, 2025, the defendant having been convicted in the above-captioned case is hereby sentenced by this Court as follows:

Count 1 - 18 § 6312 §§ D - Child Pomography (F2)

To be confined for a minimum period of 11 Month(s) 15 Day(s) and a maximum period of 23 Month(s) in

The following conditions are imposed:

Other: 11.5-23 Months Incarceration to be Served on House Arrest Followed by Three Years Reporting Probation as to Count #1, Sex Offender Treatment with Dr. Samuel to be Continued, SORNA I, No Unsupervised Contact with Minors, Random Drug Screenings, Next Court Date for Surrender: 07/01/2025 in Courtroom 905 at 9AM.

To be placed on Probation - County Regular Probation - for a maximum period of 3 Year(s) to be supervised by Philadelphia APPD.

LINKED SENTENCES:

Link 1

CP-51-CR-0000561-2025 - Seq. No. 1 (18 § 6312 §§ D) - Probation is Consecutive to

CP-51-CR-0000561-2025 - Seq. No..1 (18 § 6312 §§ D) - Confinement

The defendant shall pay the following:

	Fines	Costs	Restitution	Crime Victim's Compensation Fund - Total Out	
Amount:	\$0.00	\$728.75	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$788.75
Balance Due:	\$0.00	\$713.75	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$773.75

11.5-23 Months Incarceration to be Served on House Arrest Followed by Three Years Reporting Probation as to Count #1, Sex Offender Treatment with Dr. Samuel to be Continued, SORNA I, No Unsupervised Contact with Minors, Random Drug Screenings, Next Court Date for Surrender: 07/01/2025 in Courtroom 905 at 9AM, Courtroom 905 Honorable Zachary C. Shaffer ADA Parker Nelson Defense Attorney Michael Diamondstein Court Clerk Michael Borda DRT Mack Novak-Cogdell-----Defendant is Present

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania v. Paul M. Berman

Order of Sentence

Docket No: CP-51-CR-0000561-2025

BY THE COURT:

Judge Zachary C. Shaffer

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



GUILTY PLEA COLLOQUY

County of Philadelphia
First Judicial District

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA v. Docket No	
PART A (To Be Completed by the Defendant)	
PERSONAL	
1. What is your full name? Cac MORKIS BORMAN	_
2. How old are you today?5_9	_
3. What is the highest grade that you completed in school?	_
4. Can you read, write, and understand the English language? Yes No	
5. Have you ever been treated, or are you currently being treated, for a mental illness?	
Yes No (If the answer is "No," proceed to Question 6.)	
a. If the answer to number 5 is "Yes," please explain:)
The state of the s	
b. If you are presently being treated for a mental illness, do you feel that you have t ability to understand what you are doing today? Yes No	he
6. Have you had any alcohol or taken any drugs or medication within the past 48 hours Yes No (If the answer is "No," proceed to Question 7.)	?
a. If the answer to number 6 is "Yes," please explain: MEDICIAL TEXT ADD - DEXTEDRINE	

CP-S1-CR-0000561-2023 raim Comm. v. Bonnan, Paul M.

Are you under the influence of medication, drugs, alcohol, or any substance that would prevent you from understanding what is happening here today? You No



7.

THE OFFENSE(S)

8. Do you admit that you committed the offense(s) listed in the table below and wish to plead guilty to these offense(s)? Yes____ No____

COUNT	OFFENSE	GRADE	MAXIMUM TERM OF CONFINEMENT	MAXIMUM FINE
	Sexual Abuse of Children	1-2	10	25000
	V			
) —		7
	//-			/
			Total Max. Confinement:	Total Max. Fine:
			Confinement:	Fine:

9.	Has your attorney explained to you the elements of each of the above offense(s), and that, for each offense, the District Attorney would have to prove those elements beyond a reasonable doubt at trial in order to convict you for that offense?
	Yes No
10.	Do you understand that, after pleading guilty to the above offense(s), you could be punished up to the maximum possible penalties listed above for each offense? Yes No
11.	Has anybody promised you anything, threatened you, forced you, or coerced you in any manner to plead guilty? Yes No
12.	Have you reviewed this form with your attorney and had the opportunity to ask your attorney any questions that you have about any parts of this form? Yes \(\sum_{\text{V}} \) No

PLEA BARGAIN OR AGREEMENT

13.	Check all of the following that apply:
	There is no plea bargain or agreement of any kind.
	The parties agree that they will jointly recommend the following total sentence:
	The Commonwealth has agreed to drop the charges of:
14.	Other than what is described above, has anybody promised you anything for pleading guilty? Yes No
15, .	Do you understand that if the Judge does not agree with the plea bargain or agreement, you can withdraw your guilty plea and have a trial? Yes No

PART B (To Be Reviewed, Initialed, and Signed by the Defendant)

RIGHTS AT TRIAL

I understand that I do not have to plead guilty, even if I committed the crimes. I have an absolute right to plead not guilty and have a trial by jury. When I plead guilty, I give up my right to have a trial. If I were to proceed to trial, I would have all the rights listed below plus others.

I am presumed to be innocent. That means that I start out innocent and remain innocent unless the District Attorney proves I committed the crime(s). I do not have to prove anything.

To convict me, the District Attorney would have to prove more than that I "probably" committed the crimes. The District Attorney would have to prove me guilty "beyond a reasonable doubt." A reasonable doubt is the kind of doubt which would cause a normal, reasonable person to he he itate or pause or refuse to take any action at all in something very important to them.

I have the right to remain silent. Nobody can make me testify or talk about the case. No one can hold it against me if I remain silent. However, if I wanted to, I could testify (tell my story) at the trial. Also, I could call other people who would be my witnesses and testify for me. If I plead guilty, I give up this right.

I give up many important rights if I plead guilty. For example, if I do not plead guilty and have a trial, all the witnesses for the District Attorney would have to come to court and testify under oath. My lawyer could cross-examine them and ask them questions to see if they are telling the truth and if what they say is correct. I give up this right to confront and cross-examine witnesses, and many other rights if I plead guilty. If I plead guilty, the witnesses would not be required to come into court. The District Attorney would just provide a summary to the Judge of what happened.

JURY TRIAL OR TRIAL BY JUDGE

My lawyer has fully explained to me that I have a right to a jury trial. Nobody can take that right away from me. At a jury trial, 12 people, all from Philadelphia, would be on the jury and hear the evidence for my case. If all twelve were convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that I was guilty, I would be found guilty. If all twelve were not convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that I was guilty, I would be found not guilty. If all twelve could not agree, I would not be convicted, although I might have another trial before a different jury.

I can help pick my jurors. Each juror would be questioned to make sure they would be fair. I can keep anyone off the jury who is shown to the Judge to be unfair. If I am the only defendant at my trial, I can generally keep the following number of people off the jury without giving any reason why I don't want them on the jury, and so can the District Attorney: 7 for non-capital felony cases; 5 for cases involving only misdemeanors; 20 for capital felony cases. (Those numbers would be reduced if my trial involves other defendants.) My lawyer and I would decide together which people we want to keep off the jury.

If I give up my right to a jury trial, and if the District Attorney does not demand that my trial be heard by a jury, I still could be tried by a Judge alone without a jury. The same rules would apply, except the Judge alone would decide whether or not I have been proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. If I plead guilty, I give up all of my trial rights.

Defendant's initials

PRE-TRIAL RIGHTS

I am also giving up my pre-trial rights. If I were to proceed to a trial, my lawyer could file motions before the trial, such as motions to keep out or "suppress" evidence. That means my lawyer could try to convince the Judge that some of the evidence against me cannot be used at trial. This includes:

- (1) statements I made to the police or other people;
- (2) identifications people made of me; and ·
- (3) anything that the police or others seized to use against me as evidence.

If I plead guilty, I also give up speedy trial rights and my right under Rule 600 to be tried within 365 days of the filing of the complaint. I am also giving up all other pre-trial rights that I might have. If I already had a hearing on pre-trial motions, when I plead guilty I give up my right to appeal the decisions on those motions.

APPEAL RIGHTS

If I am found guilty at a trial, I could appeal to a higher court. I could ask to have my conviction overturned and my case discharged because there was not enough evidence, because I did not get a speedy trial, or for other reasons. I could ask for a new trial because a mistake was made before or during the trial.

I understand that if I plead guilty instead of having a trial, I would be giving up almost all of my rights to appeal. If I plead guilty, my appeal rights would be very limited.

After I plead guilty, I could appeal only if:

- (1) I did not know what I was doing when I pled guilty, or somebody forced me to do it:
- (2) I was in the wrong court the court did not have jurisdiction over my case:
- (3) The sentence the Judge gave me was illegal or improper; or
- (4) My attorney was ineffective.

After pleading-guilty-and-getting-sentenced, if I wish to argue on appeal that my-guilty-plea-was-not voluntary, or that my sentence was excessive, I must first raise those claims in a post-sentence motion. If I don't file a written post-sentence motion within 10 days of my sentencing, I lose the right to file the motion and to argue those claims on appeal.

PROBATION OR PAROLE RIGHTS

I know a guilty plea has the same effect as if I were to be found guilty after a trial. If I am on probation or parole, my guilty plea could result in a violation of my probation or parole. Therefore, in addition to my sentence in this case, I could get more time in prison for a violation of my probation or parole. This plea could also cause me to be sentenced as a second or third strike offender if I am ever convicted again and it could increase my prior record score. The sentence on this guilty plea may not run concurrent to (at the same time as) a state (back time) sentence for a parole violation. If could be concurrent with a sentence I am currently serving.

Defendant's Initials

Page 5 of 7

RISK OF DEPORTATION

I understand that pleading guilty may have immigration consequences for people who are not United States citizens or were not born in the United States. These consequences can include detention, deportation, exclusion from the United States, or denial of other immigration benefits, including naturalization, change of status within the United States, or adjustment to permanent resident status (getting a green card). If I am not a United States citizen or was not born in the United States, I certify that I have discussed these possible immigration consequences of my guilty plea with my lawyer.

VOTING RIGHTS

I understand that if convicted of a felony offense and sentenced to a term of confinement in a penal institution, I will not be eligible to vote during that period of confinement and that my voting rights will be restored once I am released from confinement, unless I am convicted of any violation of the Pennsylvania Election Code, which will make me ineligible to vote for a period of four years following my conviction.

I understand that I will not be eligible to register or vote if: (A) I will be confined in a penal institution for a felony and will not be released from confinement before the next election as a result of this plea; or (B) I will be in a community confinement facility or other alternative correctional facility for conviction of a felony and will not be released before the date of the next election as a result of this plea.

SATISFIED WITH MY LAWYER

I am satisfied with the advice and services I received from my lawyer. My lawyer spent enough time on my case, and I had enough time to talk with my lawyer about the case. My lawyer left the final decision to me, and I am the one who made the decision to plead guilty.

FACTS OF MY CASE AND ELEMENTS OF THE CRIME(S)

The facts of the case have been read to me. The crimes and elements of the crime(s) have been explained to me. I committed the crime(s) described in the table on Page 2 of this form (Part A, #8), and that is why I am pleading guilty.

GIVING UP DEFENSES

If I plead guilty, I am giving up the right to defend my case. I cannot come back to court later and say that I was not guilty. Once I plead guilty, I will no longer be able to claim that I was innocent and did not commit the crime(s).

Printed Name of Defendant

Signature of Defendant

Page 6 of 7

I HAVE READ ALL OF THE ABOVE, OR MY LAWYER HAS READ IT TO ME.
I UNDERSTAND IT. MY ANSWERS ARE ALL TRUE AND CORRECT.

DEFENSE COUNSEL'S CERTIFICATION

RE: Commonwealth v.			
(1) I am an attorney admitted to the Supreme	Court of Pennsylvania.		
(2) I represent the defendant herein.	, _	•	•
(3) I know of no reason why the defendant car done here today.	nnot fully understand eve	erything that is beir	ng said and
(4) The defendant read the above form in my proceed defendant appeared to fully understand it. defendant, explained all of the items on the	I have gone over the for	m completely with:	lhe .
(5) I see no reason why the defendant cannot up the defendant's rights to trial and pleadi		elligently and volu	ntarily giving
(6) I made no promises to the defendant other	than any listed on this fo	orm.	
	Attorney for Defenda	nt	Date
COMMONWEA	LTH'S CERTIFICATION	J	
I certify that I am the assigned Assistant District described herein are true and correct. No other exchange for the defendant's Guilty Plea. The convict the defendant of the crime(s) described For purposes of sentencing, I calculate the following.	er promises have been n facts in this case would d in the table on Page 2	nade to the defend establish a sufficion	ant in ent basis to
	PRS	OGS Guidel	ines Range

JUDGE'S CERTIFICATION

Assistant District Attorney

I certify that I am the Judge having the jurisdiction to hear this case, and that I am satisfied the defendant understands fully the nature of the Guilty Plea that the defendant is entering before me. The defendant has exercised a knowing, intelligent, and voluntary Guilty Plea to the charge(s) described above. In addition, I have personally explained to the defendant, on the record:

- (1) the charge(s) to which the defendant is pleading guilty, and the maximum sentence(s) which could be imposed, as well as any mandatory minimum sentences;
- (2) that the defendant is presumed innocent and has a right to a trial by a jury; and
- (3) that, by pleading guilty, the defendant is giving up all rights to trial and almost all rights to appeal. I have asked the defendant on the record if the defendant understands everything being said and done here today, as well as whether the defendant is pleading guilty of the defendant's own free will.

Judge Date
Page 7 of 7

Date

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas County of Philadelphia 1st Judicial District



INFORMATION

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania v. Paul M. Berman

Docket No: CP-51-CR-0000561-2025

CP-51-CR-0000581-2025 [con Comm. v. Berman, Paul M. Information Filed



The Attorney for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by this information charges that in the County of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Paul M. Berman:

COUNT 1:

Photograph/Film/Depict on Computer Sex Act - Knowingly or Permitting Child - (F2)

On or about: 07/13/2024

18 § 6312 §§ B1

Between the dates of May 2024 through August 2024, the defendant intentionally viewed or knowingly possessed or controlled any book, magazine, pamphlet, slide, photograph, film, videotape, computer depiction, or other material depicting a child tess than 18 years of age engaging in a prohibited sexual act or in the simulation of such act.

COUNT 2:

Criminal Use Of Communication Facility - (F3)

On or about: 07/13/2024

18 § 7512 §§ A

Used a communication facility to commit, cause, or facilitate the commission or the attempt thereof of a crime which constitutes a felony under the Crimes Code, 18 Pa.C.S. 101 et seq., or under the Act of April 14, 1972 (p.l. 233, no. 64), known as the controlled substance, drug, device and cosmetic act

COUNT 3:

Poss Instrument Of Crime W/Int - (M1)

On or about: 07/13/2024

18 § 907 §§ A

Possessed an instrument of crime with intent to employ it criminally

Citation of Statute

and Section:

1 18 § 6312 §§ B1 (F2)

2 18 § 7512 §§ A (F3)

3 18 § 907 §§ A (M1)

All of which is against the Act of Assembly and the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth.

Locatify 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.

Philadelphia County District Attorney

Larry Krasner

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

PARS

DC#: 24-25-047070

Dckt/MC#: MC51-CR-0000362-2025

Date: Jan 02,2025

Complaint: COM-0006949-2024

Criminal Complaint

Adult Rape

Copy

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA VS. PAUL M BERMAN

I, the undersigned, do hereby state under oath or affirmation:

- (1) My name is: MARCELLINO PETE Special Victims Unit
- (2) Laccuse PAUL M BERMAN

who lives at 1901 JFK BL Apt. 2903 Philadelphia, PA 19103

with violating the Penal Laws of Pennsylvania on or about Saturday, July 13, 2024

in the county of Philadelphia.

(3) The acts committed by the accused were:

ON DIVERSE DATES BETWEEN MAY, 2024 AND AUGUST 2024 AT OR NEAR 1901 JOHN F. KENNEDY BOULEVARD IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA THE DEFENDANT DID INTENTIONALLY OR KNOWINGLY POSSESS, VIEW OR CONTROL VIDEOS AND PHOTOS STORED ON HIS COMPUTER AND/OR CELLPHONE DEPICTING JUVENILE FEMALES NAKED IN SEXUALLY PROVOCATIVE POSES AND/OR ENGAGED IN ACTUAL OR SIMULATED PROHIBITED SEXUAL ACTS WITH EACH OTHER.

In violation of Pennsylvania Penal Laws, section(s) and title(s)

CHARGES:

Code	Grade	Description	Counts
CC6312	F2	SEXUALABUSE	001
CC7512	F3	USE OF COMMUNIC FACLTY	001
CC0907	M1	PIC	001

All of which is against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

(4) I ask that a warrant of arrest or a summons be issued and that the accused be required to answer the charges I have made. This complaint has been reviewed and approved by A.D.A. CAROLE WEINER

(5) I swear to or affirm the within complaint upon my knowledge, information and belief, and sign it on before Philadelphia Municipal Court Judge/Arraignment Court Magistrate.

LOMA

Signature of Arraignment Court Magistrate.

Sett Million

Signature of Affiant

Connective bit's Representabile. "L'œntif Hat the blind comples with the provisions of the Public Roces." Policy of the Luthed Indical System of Penisylvana, Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Counts that require lifting confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

On 01/02/2025 , the above named affiant swore or affirmed that the facts set forth in the complaint were true and correct to the best of his/her knowledge, information and belief, and signed it in my presence. I believe the within affiant to be a responsible person and that there is probable cause for the issuance of process.

School School

PAUL M BERMAN

DC#: 2425047070

Page 1 of 1

Printed: 01/06/2025 06:08 PM

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: Mora Randell Among
Name: Gloria Randall Ammons
Traine. Gioria randan rumnons
Attorney No. (if applicable): 57701