

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

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, Petitioner	:	No. 79 DB 2017
	:	
v.	:	File Nos. C1-16-360
	:	
GEOFFREY VINCENT SEAY	:	Attorney Registration No. 57744
Respondent	:	(Philadelphia)


ORDER

AND NOW, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2017, 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

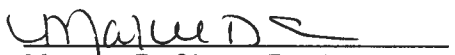
ORDERED that the said GEOFFREY VINCENT SEAY of Philadelphia, be subjected to a **PUBLIC REPRIMAND** by the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania as provided in Rule 204(b) and Rule 205(c)(8) of the Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement.

Costs shall be paid by the Respondent.

BY THE BOARD:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair

TRUE COPY FROM RECORD  
Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marcee D. Sloan, Prothonotary  
The Disciplinary Board of the  
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

**BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE  
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OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL	:	No. 79 DB 2017
Petitioner	:	
	:	
v.	:	
	:	Attorney Registration No. 57744
GEOFFREY VINCENT SEAY	:	
Respondent	:	(Philadelphia)

**PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

Geoffrey Vincent Seay, 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.

Mr. Seay, you are being reprimanded today in connection with your misconduct in one client matter.

In or around February 2013, Laura Powell retained you to represent the estate of her brother, Jerome Lewis, in a possible legal action in regard to Mr. Lewis' death while he was incarcerated at SCI Graterford. In February 2013, Ms. Powell executed a fee agreement with you.

In February 2015, you filed a writ of summons on behalf of the Lewis Estate and Ms. Powell in the Court of Common Pleas of Montgomery County. Thereafter, you failed to take any action to pursue the matter on behalf of the Lewis Estate. You also failed to inform Ms. Powell that you had initiated a civil action on behalf of the estate. You failed to take any steps to withdraw formally from the case.

In June 2016, Office of Disciplinary Counsel contacted you in regard to a complaint Ms. Powell filed against you, at which time you informed Disciplinary Counsel that you had been out of the office for a period of time due to health problems. You informed Disciplinary Counsel that you had previously sent Ms. Powell a letter advising her that you could no longer represent the estate due to your health and you further informed Disciplinary Counsel that you forwarded to Ms. Powell the estate file. You told Disciplinary Counsel that you would forward a copy of the letter sent to Ms. Powell.

By email dated July 13, 2016, to Disciplinary Counsel, you stated that you were still looking for the letter to Ms. Powell, that you would have to look on an old computer, that you were still not back to work full-time, and you would forward the information to Disciplinary Counsel as soon as possible. However, you never sent a copy of the Powell letter to Disciplinary Counsel.

Disciplinary Counsel sent a DB-7 letter to you requesting a statement of your position, and by letter of February 2, 2017, you responded, stating that you were unable to find the letter you prepared for Ms. Powell and explaining that you had experienced a variety of health issues and did not return to work until the end of August, 2016. You informed Disciplinary Counsel that your assistant gave the Lewis file to an individual named Derrick White. Upon further investigation, Disciplinary Counsel ascertained that Derick White is Ms. Powell's brother and Mr. White advised that he never received a file from you. Mr. Seay, there is no evidence that you sent the letter to Ms. Powell that you claim to have sent, or that you returned the Lewis Estate file.

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

1. RPC 1.1 – A lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client. Competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation.
2. RPC 1.3 – A lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client.
3. RPC 1.4(a)(3) – A lawyer shall keep the client reliably informed about the status of the matter.
4. RPC 1.4(b) – A lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation.
5. RPC 1.16(d) – Upon termination of representation, a lawyer shall take steps to the extent reasonably practicable to protect a client's interests such as giving reasonable notice to the client, allowing time for employment of other counsel, surrendering papers and property to which the client is entitled and refunding any advance payment of fee or expense that has not been earned or incurred.

Mr. Seay, we note that you have a record of prior discipline consisting of an Informal Admonition with condition imposed in 2012 for your misconduct in two matters. The underlying misconduct therein involved a similar lack of competence and diligence.

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



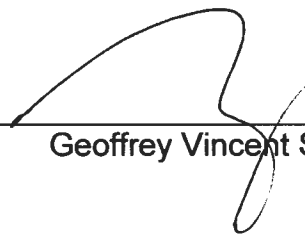
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Designated Member  
The Disciplinary Board of the  
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

Administered by a designated panel of three Members of The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on October 4, 2017.

### **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 1601 Market Street, Suite 3320, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on October 4, 2017.



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Geoffrey Vincent Seay