

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, : No. 2919 Disciplinary Docket No. 3  
: :  
Petitioner : No. 87 DB 2022  
: :  
v. : Attorney Registration No. 204508  
: :  
: (Cumberland County)  
COREY JAMES ADAMSON, : :  
: :  
Respondent : :

**ORDER**

**PER CURIAM:**

**AND NOW**, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022, upon consideration of the Recommendation of the Three-Member Panel of the Disciplinary Board, the Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent is granted, and Corey James Adamson is suspended on consent from the Bar of this Commonwealth for a period of one year and one day. Respondent shall comply with all 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 12/07/2022

Attest:   
Chief Clerk  
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

|                                 |   |                          |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, | : | 87 DB 2022               |
| Petitioner                      | : |                          |
|                                 | : |                          |
| v.                              | : |                          |
|                                 | : |                          |
| COREY JAMES ADAMSON,            | : | Attorney Reg. No. 204508 |
| Respondent                      | : |                          |
|                                 | : | (Cumberland County)      |

**JOINT PETITION IN SUPPORT OF DISCIPLINE ON CONSENT**  
**PURSUANT TO Pa. R.D.E. 215(d)**

Petitioner, Office of Disciplinary Counsel, by Thomas J. Farrell, Esquire, Chief Disciplinary Counsel, and by Jessica L. Chapman, Esquire, Disciplinary Counsel, and Respondent, Corey James Adamson, file this Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent under Rule 215(d) of the Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement (hereinafter, "Pa.R.D.E.") and respectfully state and aver the following:

1. Petitioner, whose principal office is located at the Pennsylvania Judicial Center, 601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 2700, P.O. Box 62485, Harrisburg, PA 17106, is invested, pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 207, with the power and the duty to investigate all matters involving alleged misconduct of an attorney admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and to prosecute all disciplinary proceedings brought in accordance with the various provisions of the aforesaid Rules.

**FILED**  
**09/28/2022**  
**The Disciplinary Board of the**  
**Supreme Court of Pennsylvania**

2. Respondent, Corey James Adamson, was born on May 11, 1980, was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on October 26, 2006, and has a registered address of 210 Ridge Hill Road, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17050.

3. Respondent is subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

4. On July 3, 2022, Respondent accepted service of a Petition for Discipline in this matter.

5. Respondent did not file an answer and therefore, pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 208(b)(3), all the factual allegations in the Petition for Discipline were deemed admitted.

#### SPECIFIC FACTUAL ADMISSIONS

6. In December 2018, Respondent began his employment at Abom & Kutulakis.

7. Respondent's misconduct involves several clients throughout his employment at Abom & Kutulakis as set forth in detail as follows:

#### **THE KEYSTONE INITIATIVE FOR NETWORK BASED EDUCATION MATTER**

8. In 2018, Keystone Initiative for Network Based Education ("KINBER") retained Abom & Kutulakis to ensure that all of its assets were titled in its name.

9. KINBER was concerned that when their fiber optic network was initially built, many rights-of-way and licenses had been put in the name of Sunesys, an affiliate of the construction company. Sunesys was later acquired by Crown Castle.

10. Respondent's representation of KINBER involved identifying grantors from whom consent to an assignment was required, obtaining the consents, and providing a timeline for completion.

11. During the course of Respondent's representation, KINBER requested

updates from Respondent as to the progress of the project.

12. In response, Respondent made false and misleading statements as to his progress.

13. Specifically, in a memo to KINBER's Board of Directors dated April 29, 2019, Respondent stated that a portion of the project for which he had fully signed agreements was 50% complete, a second portion for which the agreements still needed one or two signatures was 30% complete, and a third portion which he had to "start from scratch" was 20% complete.

14. By e-mail dated July 15, 2019, Respondent stated to Nathan Flood, then vice-president of KINBER, that he was 95 to 98% complete.

15. By e-mail dated February 4, 2020, Respondent responded to an e-mail from Gwendolyn Huntoon, then a consultant for KINBER but formerly its President and CEO, stating that everything had been assigned between KINBER and Crown Castle.

16. By e-mails dated July 15, 2019 and February 11, 2020, Mr. Flood and Randall Martin, Manager of Finance and Business Administration at KINBER, requested the completed agreements.

17. Respondent failed to provide the agreements.

18. Via e-mail dated February 19, 2020, Respondent stated to Attorney John Albert Abom, owner of Abom and Kutulakis, that he had not completed the majority of the agreements.

19. In his DB-7 Statement of Respondent's Position ("DB-7 Statement"), Respondent admitted that he misrepresented the level of completion on the project.

20. In his DB-7 Statement, Respondent also admitted that he did not provide

the documents requested by Mr. Flood in his July 15, 2019 e-mail.

### **THE MAKAYELA MILLER MATTER**

21. Makayela Miller retained Respondent to represent her in connection with a guardianship matter for her two minor children.

22. On April 26, 2019, Respondent filed a petition seeking appointment of Ms. Miller as sole guardian despite the clear provisions of 20 Pa.C.S. § 5112(3) preventing parents of a minor to serve as sole guardians.

23. On May 10, 2019, Respondent filed an amended petition in which he sought appointment of Ms. Miller and himself as co-guardians and requesting reimbursement of legal fees and costs ("first amended petition").

24. Respondent did not discuss with Ms. Miller why he believed adding himself as a co-guardian was appropriate or would result in the first amended petition being granted or whether his serving as co-guardian could present a conflict of interest.

25. Following a hearing on June 12, 2019, the Honorable Shawn D. Meyers recommended that Respondent discuss his serving as co-guardian with Attorney Abom prior to issuing a decision.

26. Ms. Miller subsequently informed Respondent that her aunt agreed to serve as co-guardian with Ms. Miller.

27. Respondent responded that he would file a new petition with Ms. Miller and her aunt serving as co-guardians ("second amended petition").

28. Respondent failed to file the second amended petition.

29. Via e-mail dated June 26, 2019, Ms. Miller asked Respondent if he had filed the second amended petition.

30. On June 27, 2019, Respondent responded that he filed the petition and was waiting for a hearing to be scheduled.

31. This statement was false and misleading in that Respondent had not filed the second amended petition.

32. On July 12, 2019, Ms. Miller asked Respondent for an update on a hearing date.

33. On July 15, 2019, Respondent replied that he had called the judge's chambers and was informed that he would be getting a hearing date that week.

34. This statement was false and misleading.

35. On September 6, 2019, Respondent e-mailed Ms. Miller that a hearing had been scheduled for September 24, 2019.

36. Respondent's statement was false and misleading in that no hearing was scheduled for September 24, 2019.

37. On September 23, 2019, Respondent notified Ms. Miller via e-mail that the judge had an emergency proceeding and the hearing had been postponed.

38. Respondent's statement was false and misleading in that no hearing was scheduled or postponed.

39. By e-mail dated November 7, 2019, Respondent informed Ms. Miller that the hearing had been rescheduled for November 15, 2019.

40. Respondent's statement was false and misleading in that no hearing was scheduled for November 15, 2019.

41. On November 14, 2019, Respondent e-mailed Ms. Miller and told her that the judge had to reschedule again.

42. Respondent's statement was false and misleading in that no hearing was scheduled or rescheduled.

43. In response to a March 3, 2020 e-mail from Attorney Abom asking if any hearings had been scheduled after the June 2019 hearing, Respondent stated, "No."

44. In his DB-7 Statement, Respondent admitted that his statements that he filed the second amended petition and that a hearing had been scheduled twice and then cancelled were false and misleading.

45. In his DB-7 Statement, Respondent also stated that he had never previously handled a guardianship petition.

#### **THE DOROTHY HARNISH MATTER**

46. Dorothy Harnish was the beneficiary of the estate of Elizabeth Butler, who died in Tennessee.

47. In her will, Ms. Butler bequeathed a parcel of land in Pennsylvania to Ms. Harnish.

48. Ms. Harnish wanted to open an ancillary estate in her name and transfer the parcel of land into the ancillary estate.

49. In 2019, Ms. Harnish retained Respondent.

50. Respondent opened the ancillary estate and transferred the parcel of land.

51. By e-mail dated December 19, 2019, Respondent told Ms. Harnish that he had filed the necessary inheritance tax return, that she did not owe anything to the state, and that Respondent would hear back from the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue within two to four months.

52. Respondent never filed the inheritance tax return.



53. Respondent's statement to Ms. Harnish that he filed the inheritance tax return was false.

54. Despite Respondent's assurances that Ms. Harnish would not owe any money, the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue assessed taxes at \$29,914.29 and an additional interest and penalties at \$2,059.24.

55. Respondent's statement to Ms. Harnish that she did not owe anything to the state was false.

56. In his DB-7 Statement, Respondent acknowledged that he told Attorney Abom via e-mail dated March 4, 2020, that he had not filed the inheritance tax return.

57. Abom and Kutulakis ultimately filed the inheritance tax return and paid the interest and penalties incurred.

#### **THE ALICE EBERT MATTER**

58. On or about March 27, 2019, Alice Ebert retained Respondent in connection with a civil action against a roofing company.

59. On or about June 27, 2019, Respondent falsely informed Ms. Ebert that he had filed the civil action.

60. Respondent had not made any filings in the matter.

61. Respondent subsequently stated to Ms. Ebert on three occasions that a hearing had been scheduled and then informed her that the hearing was either cancelled or postponed.

62. Respondent's statements were false.

63. Thereafter, Ms. Ebert's son contacted the Magisterial District Court and learned that Respondent had not filed any action on behalf of Ms. Ebert.



64. It was not until November 20, 2019, that Respondent filed the civil action, docketed at Alice Ebert v. Evanoff & Son Roofing, MJ-09304-CV-0000401-2019 (MDJ Cumberland).

65. In his DB-7 Statement, Respondent admitted that he falsely represented to Ms. Ebert that he had initiated suit in her matter and that a hearing had been scheduled and cancelled three times.

### **THE THOMAS BRADLEY MATTER**

66. Thomas Bradley had been suspended from his employment due to an ongoing criminal matter, which a different Abom and Kutulakis attorney handled.

67. After Mr. Bradley's criminal matter was resolved, in late 2019, Respondent began representing him to resolve the employment portion of his matter.

68. Respondent filed a petition for review of Mr. Bradley's employment status with the US Merit Systems Protection Board.

69. In January 2020, the assigned hearing officer determined that he did not have jurisdiction because a final employment decision had not yet been reached.

70. Thereafter, Attorney Abom directed Respondent to discuss with Mr. Bradley the appeal deadline of February 13, 2020 and the payment of an additional retainer.

71. On February 11, 2020, Respondent filed the appeal without a prior discussion with Mr. Bradley.

72. After the hearing officer's determination, Mr. Bradley did not have contact with Respondent and he did not agree to pay an additional retainer in conjunction with moving forward with the appeal.

## MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

73. On February 14, 2020, Respondent was terminated from Abom and Kutulakis due to dishonesty.

74. Via e-mails dated February 18, 2020, Respondent stated to Attorney Abom that he “did not plan[] on practicing law anymore, at least not in a private capacity” and that he was a “borderline, if not full, compulsive/pathological liar.”

75. Respondent also stated to Attorney Abom by e-mail dated February 20, 2020 that he intended to self-report his misconduct to the Disciplinary Board.

76. Respondent did not self-report.

77. On or about July 2, 2020, Respondent began employment with The Law Offices of Jason R. Carpenter, LLC (“Carpenter Law”).

### RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT VIOLATED

78. Respondent admits to violating the following Rules of Professional Conduct:

- a. RPC 1.1, which states, “A lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client. Competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation.”
- b. RPC 1.3, which states, “A lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client.”
- c. RPC 1.4(a)(3), which states, “A lawyer shall . . . keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the matter[.]”
- d. RPC 1.4(a)(4), which states, “A lawyer shall . . . promptly comply with reasonable requests for information[.]”

- e. RPC 1.4(b), which states, “A lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation.”
- f. RPC 8.4(c), which states, “It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to . . . engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.”
- g. RPC 8.4(d), which states, “It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to . . . engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice[.]”

SPECIFIC JOINT RECOMMENDATION FOR DISCIPLINE

79. Petitioner and Respondent jointly recommend that the appropriate discipline for Respondent is a one-year and one-day suspension. Respondent hereby consents to the discipline being imposed upon him by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

80. Respondent’s lack of prior disciplinary history, acceptance of responsibility by agreeing to a consent suspension, and cooperation with ODC are mitigating factors. His cooperation, however, is minimized by the fact that he falsely told Attorney Abom that he would self-report his misconduct, causing Attorney Abom to delay his reporting of Respondent’s misconduct.

81. Discipline for misconduct arising out of neglect of multiple client matters supports a period of suspension. In *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Brian Oliver Williams*, 38 DB 2022 (D.Bd. Rpt. 3/10/2022) (S. Ct. Order 4/19/2022), Williams was suspended for one year and one day on consent for his negligence in handling ten client matters during the course of seven months. His misconduct included failure to provide

competent representation, communicate with clients, file timely pleadings, appear for court proceedings, and return client funds. Williams' lack of prior discipline was a mitigating factor. In *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. James Harry Turner*, 144 DB 2021 (D.Bd. Rpt. 3/4/2022) (S. Ct. Order 4/14/2022), Turner was suspended for 2 years on consent in a case in which he neglected two client matters by failing to communicate or explain matters to his clients and file timely pleadings. Turner's recent discipline was an aggravating factor. Turner had received an informal admonition in connection with two separate matters for his incompetence, delays, and failure to communicate. As a condition to that informal admonition, he was required to refund \$1,000.

82. Suspension has also been found appropriate where a respondent neglects a client matter and continuously misleads the client as to the status of the case. See *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Jamie Ray-Leonetti*, 182 DB 2017 (D.Bd. Rpt. 2/23/2018) (S. Ct. Order 3/19/2018). Jamie Ray-Leonetti was suspended for one year and one day on consent in a case in which she neglected a client's matter, causing its dismissal, and misrepresented to the client that the matter had settled and the client's outstanding bills were being satisfied. Her prior discipline was an aggravating factor. Ray-Leonetti had received a private reprimand, with a one-year period of probation and conditions. Her misconduct included lack of diligence, failure to provide information the clients needed to make an informed decision, and making multiple misrepresentations as to the status of the matter. The conditions were that she continue taking prescribed medication, attending counseling with her therapist, and file quarterly reports from her therapist.

83. Here, a period of suspension of one year and one day is appropriate.

Respondent's misconduct involved five separate matters throughout the course of just over a year in which he failed to communicate with his clients as to the status of their matters; failed to make timely filings; and continuously misrepresented to his clients the status of their matters leading them to believe that their matters were progressing when they were not. Additionally, as in *Williams*, Respondent does not have a prior history of discipline.

84. Finally, a suspension of one year and one day is necessary to protect the public, which is the overriding goal of the disciplinary system. Requiring Respondent to petition for reinstatement will give him the opportunity to demonstrate that he is in a position to adequately represent clients and to adequately address how he has rehabilitated himself from both his professional misconduct and his concerning statements regarding his being a pathological liar. *See Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Jonah Daniel Levin*, 124 DB 2004 (D.Bd. Rpt. 2/10/2006) (S. Ct. Order 5/5/2006); *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Eric B. Levande*, 72 DB 1999 (D.Bd. Rpt. 2/2/2001) (S. Ct. Order 4/2/2001).

85. The parties respectfully submit that a one-year and one-day suspension is consistent with the above cited disciplinary authority.


Respondent hereby consents to the discipline being imposed upon him by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Attached to this Petition is Respondent's executed Affidavit required by Pa.R.D.E. 215(d), stating that Respondent consents to the recommended discipline and including the mandatory acknowledgments contained in Pa.R.D.E. 215(d)(1) through (4).

WHEREFORE, Petitioner and Respondent respectfully request that your Honorable Board:

- (a) Approve this Petition and recommend that the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania enter an Order imposing a suspension of one year and one day; and
- (b) Pursuant to Pa. R.D.E. 215(i) enter an order for Respondent to pay the necessary expenses incurred in the investigation and prosecution of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 09/27/2022

By: 

Jessica L. Chapman, Esq.  
Disciplinary Counsel  
Attorney Registration No. 323038  
601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 5800  
P.O. Box 62675  
Harrisburg, PA 17106-2675  
Telephone (717) 772-8572

Date: 9/20/22

By: 

Coley James Adamson  
Respondent  
Attorney Registration No. 204508  
210 Ridge Hill Road  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050  
Telephone (814) 591-8299



BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

|                                 |   |                          |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, | : | 87 DB 2022               |
| Petitioner                      | : |                          |
|                                 | : |                          |
| v.                              | : |                          |
|                                 | : |                          |
| COREY JAMES ADAMSON,            | : | Attorney Reg. No. 204508 |
| Respondent                      | : |                          |
|                                 | : | (Cumberland County)      |

RESPONDENT'S AFFIDAVIT UNDER RULE 215(d) OF THE  
PENNSYLVANIA RULES OF DISCIPLINARY ENFORCEMENT

I, Corey James Adamson, Respondent in the above-captioned matter, hereby consent to the imposition of a one-year and one-day suspension, as jointly recommended by the Petitioner, Office of Disciplinary Counsel, and myself, in a Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent and further state:

1. My consent is freely and voluntarily rendered; I am not being subjected to coercion or duress; I am fully aware of the implications of submitting the consent;
2. I am aware there is presently pending a proceeding involving allegations that I have been guilty of misconduct as set forth in the Joint Petition;
3. I acknowledge that the material facts set forth in the Joint Petition are true;
4. I consent because I know that if the charges continued to be prosecuted in the pending proceeding, I could not successfully defend against them; and



5. I acknowledge that I am fully aware of my right to consult and employ counsel to represent me in the instant proceeding.

Date: 9-20-2022

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Corey James Adamson  
Respondent

Attorney Registration No. 204508  
210 Ridge Hill Road  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050  
Telephone (814) 591-8299

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA }  
COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND } SS:

SWORN BEFORE ME  
ON 20 OF Sept 2022

Stephen J. Bihl

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal  
Stephen J. Bihl, Notary Public  
Cumberland County  
My commission expires September 26, 2023  
Commission number 1357299

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, : 87 DB 2022  
Petitioner :  
 :  
v. :  
 :  
COREY JAMES ADAMSON, : Attorney Reg. No. 204508  
Respondent :  
 : (Cumberland County)

**VERIFICATION**

The statements made in the foregoing Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent Pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 215(d) are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. This statement is made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Date: 09/27/2022

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Jessica L. Chapman, Esq.  
Disciplinary Counsel  
Attorney Registration No. 323038  
601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 5800  
P.O. Box 62675  
Harrisburg, PA 17106-2675  
Telephone (717) 772-8572

Date: 9/20/22

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Corey James Adamson  
Respondent  
Attorney Registration No. 204508  
210 Ridge Hill Road  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050  
Telephone (814) 591-8299

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE  
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OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, : 87 DB 2022  
Petitioner :  
 :  
v. :  
 :  
COREY JAMES ADAMSON, : Attorney Reg. No. 204508  
Respondent :  
 : (Cumberland County)

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I am this day serving the foregoing document upon all parties of record in this proceeding in accordance with the requirements of Pa.R.A.P. 121.

First Class Mail as follows:

Corey James Adamson  
210 Ridge Hill Road  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Date: 09/27/2022

By: 

Jessica L. Chapman, Esq.  
Disciplinary Counsel  
Attorney Registration No. 323038  
601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 5800  
P.O. Box 62675  
Harrisburg, PA 17106-2675  
Telephone (717) 772-8572

**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: Jessica L. Chapman

Name: Jessica L. Chapman, Disciplinary Counsel

Attorney No.: 323038