

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

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL	:	No. 93 DB 2016
Petitioner	:	
	:	
v.	:	Attorney Registration No. 65841
	:	
THOMAS L. LIGHTNER	:	
Respondent	:	(Lehigh County)

**PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

Thomas L. Lightner, 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. Lightner, you are being reprimanded today in connection with your criminal conviction in the Court of Common Pleas of Juniata County. On February 7, 2015, the East Waterford Fire Company was dispatched to the scene of a fire at the Vietnam Veterans Campground in Tuscarora Township, Pennsylvania. Upon arrival, it discovered that a trailer and pavilion had been completely consumed by the fire. Evidence at the scene included a disposable lighter and fire starting materials. Investigation revealed that you had purchased these materials on the day of the fire.

On June 1, 2015, a Criminal Information was filed in which you were charged with felony Arson and Related Offenses. On September 8, 2015, you entered a plea of guilty to one count each of Criminal Mischief, Criminal Trespass, Recklessly Endangering Another Person, and Arson and related offenses. You were sentenced to a five year term of probation, restitution and fines. You have been prohibited from having

any involvement with the Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Club Midwest Region and North Atlantic Region and must follow all recommendations for treatment made by the Veterans Administration.

In mitigation, we note the following:

- a. You demonstrated remorse and acceptance of responsibility;
- b. You have no record of discipline and no prior criminal history;
- c. You timely reported your conviction to Office of Disciplinary Counsel;
- d. Your crime involved setting fire to your own property and you had no intent to harm anyone;
- e. After you were criminally charged, you voluntarily entered the Malvern Clinic for a three week stay to address addiction issues;
- f. You have been sober since February 2015 and regularly attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers meetings;
- g. You suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, which began during your military duty in the 1970s. You have sought help for this issue from the Veterans Administration.
- h. You provided evidence of good character.

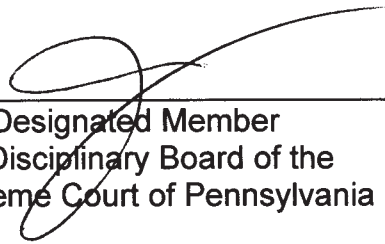
Your conduct in this matter has violated the following Rule of Professional Conduct and Rule of Disciplinary Enforcement:

1. RPC 8.4(b) – It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to commit a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects.
2. Pa.R.D.E. 203(b)(1) – Conviction of a crime shall be grounds for discipline.

Mr. Lightner, 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 and Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement. 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 July 11, 2016.

### **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 July 11, 2016.



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Thomas L. Lightner