

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

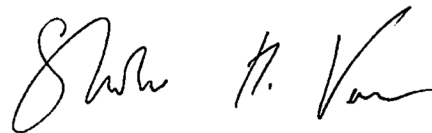
OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL	:	
Petitioner	:	
	:	No. 125 DB 2026
v.	:	
	:	Attorney Registration No. 319719
JAMES HENDERSON BONNER	:	
Respondent	:	(Delaware County)

ORDER

AND NOW, this 7th day of October 2026, in accordance with Rule 215(g), Pa.R.D.E., the three-member Panel of the Disciplinary Board having reviewed and approved the Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent filed in the above captioned matter; it is

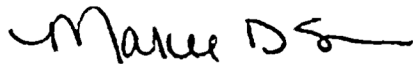
ORDERED that JAMES HENDERSON BONNER, be subjected to a **PUBLIC REPRIMAND** by the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania as provided in Rule 204(a) and Rule 205(c)(9) of the Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement.

BY THE BOARD:



Board Chair

TRUE COPY FROM RECORD
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**

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, :

Petitioner :

v. :

JAMES HENDERSON BONNER, :

Respondent :

No. ¹²⁵ DB 2026

Attorney Reg. No. 319719

(Delaware County)

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

Petitioner, the Office of Disciplinary Counsel ("ODC") by Thomas J. Farrell, Chief Disciplinary Counsel, and Elizabeth A. Livingston, Disciplinary Counsel, and James Henderson Bonner, Esquire ("Respondent"), by and through his counsel, Ellen C. Brotman, Esquire, respectfully petition the Disciplinary Board in support of discipline on consent, pursuant to Pennsylvania Rule of Disciplinary Enforcement ("Pa.R.D.E.") 215(d), and in support thereof state:

1. Pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 207, ODC, whose principal office is situated at Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, Pennsylvania Judicial Center, Suite 2700, 601 Commonwealth Avenue, P.O. Box 62485, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 17106, is invested with the power and duty to

FILED

09/24/2026

**The Disciplinary Board of the
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania**

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 Enforcement Rules.

2. Respondent was born in 1983 and was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on December 3, 2014. Respondent is on active status and his registered address is 8 West Front Street, Media, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, 19063.

3. Respondent serves as a part-time hearing officer in family court matters and is a solo practitioner.

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

5. Respondent has four client complaints pending against him, as set forth *infra* at Paragraphs 6 through 55. In June 2026, Respondent appeared with his counsel at ODC District II and produced RPC 1.15 records relating to each client, establishing that all advance payments of legal fees and expenses had been deposited into his IOLTA. At that time, Respondent admitted that he had not been performing three-way reconciliations and did not have five (5) years of law firm financial records on file at his law office. See *infra* at Paragraph 60.

SPECIFIC FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS ADMITTED

The Saracino Complaint

6. In May 2024, Dr. Saracino retained Respondent to review a pre-nuptial agreement, provide an opinion as to whether the agreement was enforceable, and possibly draw up and file divorce papers. Respondent did not provide Dr. Saracino with a written fee agreement; however, Dr. Saracino agreed to pay Respondent \$350.00 per hour and provide a \$5,000.00 initial retainer, which Respondent deposited into his IOLTA.

7. Respondent determined the prenuptial agreement was enforceable. From July 2024 through September 2024, Respondent drafted a letter to Dr. Saracino's spouse, began drafting the Complaint in Divorce, and obtained a copy of The Saracinos' marriage certificate from Chester County.

8. Respondent represents that he intended to serve the letter on Dr. Saracino's spouse and file the Complaint in Divorce but admits he failed to do so and failed to complete Dr. Saracino's matter.

9. Respondent further acknowledges that, after October 1, 2024, he ceased meaningful communication with Dr. Saracino, even though Dr. Saracino attempted to contact him numerous times, via multiple methods of communication, over many months.

10. Dr. Saracino filed a complaint with ODC and initiated a fee dispute resolution matter with a Delaware County Legal Organization. Before Respondent had notice of Dr. Saracino's complaint and ODC's investigation, in October 2025, he provided a full refund of Dr. Saracino's retainer. Respondent admitted he did not provide the legal work for which he was hired and, for that reason, he disgorged his entire fee. At the time of the refund, Respondent knew about the fee dispute resolution matter.

11. On December 16, 2025, ODC issued to Respondent a DB-7 Letter relating to the Saracino Complaint. Respondent received the DB-7 Letter but failed to timely respond to it.

12. Regarding this avoidance of disciplinary process, Respondent represents that:

- a) at the end of 2025, he was struggling to normalize his home life for his daughters and maintain his solo practice;
- b) he was overwhelmed with anxiety and too embarrassed to reach out to Ms. Brotman or other counsel for help;
- c) he understands that these explanations do not excuse his failure to timely cooperate with ODC and he never intended to show any disrespect to ODC or the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania; and,

- d) he apologized both in his SOP and on the record at a subpoena return hearing to both Disciplinary Counsel individually and to ODC as a whole.

13. By his conduct as alleged in Paragraphs 5 through 12 above, Respondent has violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct and Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement:

- A. RPC 1.1, which states that a lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client, and that competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation;
- B. RPC 1.3, which states that a lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client;
- C. RPC 1.4(a)(1), which states that a lawyer shall promptly inform the client of any decision or circumstance with respect to which the client's informed consent, as defined in Rule 1.0(e), is required by these Rules;
- D. RPC 1.4(a)(2), which states that a lawyer shall reasonably consult with the client about the means by which the client's

objectives are to be accomplished;

- E. RPC 1.4(a)(3), which states that a lawyer shall, keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the matter;
- F. RPC 1.4(a)(4), which states that a lawyer shall promptly comply with reasonable requests for information;
- G. RPC 1.4(b), which states that a lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation;
- H. RPC 1.5(b), which states that when a lawyer has not regularly represented a client, the basis or rate of the fee shall be communicated to the client, in writing, before or within a reasonable time after commencing the representation;
- I. RPC 1.16(d), which states that, 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; and,

- J. Pa.R.D.E. 203(b)(7) states that failure by a respondent-attorney without good cause to respond to Disciplinary Counsel's request or supplemental request under Disciplinary Board Rules §87.7(b) for a statement of the respondent-attorney's position shall be grounds for discipline.

The K.G. Complaint

14. K.G. is a registered nurse in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Beginning in April 2023, K.G. was placed in the Professional Health Monitoring Program ("PHMP") Voluntary Recovery Program ("VRP").

15. On June 24, 2025, K.G. submitted a VRP drug test that tested positive for alcohol, which put her at risk of being required to extend her time in VRP by three (3) years.

16. Three days later, K.G. was accused of consuming alcohol while actively participating in VRP, and a month later, K.G.'s employer temporarily removed her from her nursing position.

17. The next day, K.G. retained Respondent for her nursing disciplinary matter and paid him a \$1,500.00 retainer by credit card, which

was deposited into Respondent's IOLTA. Respondent provided K.G. with a written fee agreement.

18. After mid-August 2025, Respondent ceased communications with K.G. even though over the course of several months she called and emailed him numerous times.

19. K.G. eventually requested a charge back from the credit card company.

20. Respondent represents that he conducted initial phone conversations, reviewed K.G.'s case-related documents, prepared a VRP explanation letter, provided advice regarding evaluation requirements, and coached her on how to support her case.

21. Respondent acknowledges that, after mid-August 2025, he ceased all meaningful communication with K.G., ignored calls, failed to contact a testing laboratory as he had promised, and failed to pursue any appeal of the VRP outcome.

22. As a result, Respondent did not contest the charge back for K.G.'s \$1,500.00 retainer, even though he had done work to earn a portion of that advance legal fee.

23. Respondent states that he deeply regrets that he let the temporary chaos of his personal life distract him from giving K.G. the representation she deserved.

24. By his conduct as alleged in Paragraphs 14 through 23 above, Respondent has violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct:

- A. RPC 1.1, which states that a lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client, and that competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation;
- B. RPC 1.3, which states that a lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client;
- C. RPC 1.4(a)(2), which states that a lawyer shall reasonably consult with the client about the means by which the client's objectives are to be accomplished;
- D. RPC 1.4(a)(3), which states that a lawyer shall keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the matter;
- E. RPC 1.4(a)(4), which states that a lawyer shall promptly comply with reasonable requests for information;

- F. RPC 1.4(b), which states that a lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation; and,
- G. RPC 1.16(d), which states that, 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.

The B.M. Complaint

- 25. B.M. is a practical nurse in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- 26. On June 5, 2025, the Phoenixville Borough Police Department arrested B.M. for various misdemeanors and a felony relating to theft, receiving stolen property, and possession of a controlled substance.
- 27. By letter dated June 17, 2025, a Professional Health Monitoring Programs ("PHMP") representative notified B.M. that the Department of State had received information indicating she may be suffering from a mental

or physical disorder, such as a substance use disorder, and offered her an opportunity to participate in the Voluntary Recovery Program (“VRP”).

28. Between June 5, 2025 and June 19, 2025, B.M. searched for an attorney that could represent her both in her criminal matter and in the related nursing disciplinary matter, and she found Respondent’s website.

29. On or about June 19, 2025, B.M. and Respondent discussed her criminal matter and nursing disciplinary matter, and B.M. retained Respondent for both matters. B.M. paid Respondent an initial retainer of \$750.00.

30. Respondent provided B.M. with two written fee agreements – one for her criminal matter and one for her nursing disciplinary matter.

31. Respondent charged B.M. an earned-upon-receipt, non-refundable fee for the criminal matter and limited the scope of representation to investigation prior to any charges being brought and representation at a preliminary hearing. Respondent provided this representation.

32. For the nursing disciplinary matter, Respondent charged a \$2,500.00 retainer which was placed in his IOLTA.

33. Respondent explained that B.M. was accused of stealing opioids from the health care facility where she was employed. During the preliminary

hearing, the Commonwealth provided video evidence conclusively establishing that she had stolen drugs.

34. Respondent represents that he advised B.M. at the conclusion of the preliminary hearing that his representation in the criminal matter was over and that she needed to pay him an extra \$4,000.00 if she wanted him to continue as her counsel. Respondent believed B.M. understood that his representation in the criminal matter was concluded.

35. Respondent further represents that he told B.M. that he would still represent her in the nursing disciplinary case, which he believed would be held in abeyance until the criminal case was resolved. Respondent did not memorialize this conversation in a writing to B.M.

36. From September 2025 through January 2026, B.M. contacted Respondent about her criminal matter and Respondent did not respond. Respondent admits that he failed to communicate with B.M. but states that he had not been retained in the criminal matter.

37. Respondent also admits that his communication with B.M. should have been more clear, and that, when she continued to call him, he should have understood that she was confused about his inability to represent her in the criminal case. Respondent understands that it was his responsibility to ensure that no confusion about the representation existed.

38. Regarding the nursing disciplinary matter, Respondent states that, in September 2025, he advised the Pennsylvania Board of Nursing, through his discussions with its investigator, that B.M. would be providing no further information until the criminal case was resolved, and at that point, he considered the matter to be on hold, which he believes he contemporaneously explained to B.M. during a September 25, 2025 phone call.

39. Respondent was not aware that B.M. may not have wanted him to continue his representation in the nursing disciplinary matter until he received ODC's DB-7 Letter.

40. By letter dated June 8, 2026, Respondent apologized to B.M. and asked for clarification as to whether she wished him to continue as her counsel in the nursing disciplinary matter.

41. On or about June 19, 2026, Respondent sent B.M. a \$2,500.00 refund check.

42. By his conduct as alleged in Paragraphs 25 through 41 above, Respondent has violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct:

- A. RPC 1.4(a)(2), which states that a lawyer shall reasonably consult with the client about the means by which the client's objectives are to be accomplished;

- B. RPC 1.4(a)(3), which states that a lawyer shall keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the matter;
- C. RPC 1.4(a)(4), which states that a lawyer shall promptly comply with reasonable requests for information;
- D. RPC 1.4(b), which states that a lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation.

The C.B. Complaint

43. C.B. is a registered nurse in Pennsylvania. On August 1, 2024, C.B. was arrested in York County, Pennsylvania for a variety of offenses, including but not limited to: DUI – Highest Rate of Alcohol (BAC .16+), 1st Offense, in violation of 75 Pa.C.S.A. Section 3802(c); DUI – Controlled Substance – Combination Alcohol/Drugs, 1st Offense, in violation of 75 Pa.C.S.A. Section 3802(d)(3); and, Improper Turn / Green Light, in violation of 75 Pa.C.S.A. Section 3112(a)(1)(i).

44. On October 29, 2024, a criminal complaint was filed against C.B. She retained Richard William Fisher, II, Esquire of the Ferro Law Firm, LLC to represent her in her criminal matter. Mr. Fisher referred C.B. to

Respondent for representation in a related nursing disciplinary matter before the Pennsylvania Board of Nursing.

45. On or about October 30, 2024, C.B. retained Respondent for her nursing disciplinary matter and agreed to a rate of \$350.00 per hour to be drawn against a \$2,500.00 retainer. Respondent gave C.B. a written fee agreement.

46. On November 1, 2024, C.B. paid the \$2,500.00 retainer, which was deposited into Respondent's IOLTA. C.B. sent Respondent case-related documents for his review.

47. Respondent set up but then failed to attend an early November 2024 conference call with C.B.

48. Thereafter, Respondent stopped communicating with C.B. and did not do any legal work for her.

49. Respondent acknowledges that he failed to contact the NHP or PHMP on behalf of C.B., failed to provide guidance on required evaluations, failed to respond to legal papers served on C.B., and failed to respond to C.B.'s repeated requests for a refund.

50. On January 5, 2026, Respondent issued a full refund to C.B. because he had not earned the \$2,500.00 retainer and the refund was fully

warranted. Respondent took this action after he had notice of ODC's investigation in the Saracino Complaint.

51. Respondent acknowledges that his delay in issuing a refund to C.B. – from the time C.B. first requested it in June 2025 through January 2026 – was unacceptable and caused additional harm. Respondent confirmed to ODC that the retainer was in trust the entire time he held it.

52. Respondent admits that he never should have taken C.B.'s case because, at the time, he was dealing with enormous and unusual pressure in his matrimonial and custody disputes. Respondent represents that he felt it was incumbent on him to prioritize his children to an extent that otherwise would not have been required to ensure that his spouse could not use any lapse in his ability to be present as a basis for limiting his access to his children.

53. Respondent further represents that, in retrospect, he was not being realistic about his time commitments to himself or to his practice.

54. Respondent admits that his communications with C.B. were severely and unacceptably deficient following early November 2024, that the representation did not advance as it should have, and that these inadequacies were in violation of his professional obligations.

55. C.B. recently advised ODC that she desires to confirm completion of this disciplinary case so that she can move on with her life and she has no further comments about the matter.

56. By his conduct as alleged in Paragraphs 43 through 55 above, Respondent has violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct:

- A. RPC 1.1, which states that a lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client, and that competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation;
- B. RPC 1.3, which states that a lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client;
- C. RPC 1.4(a)(2), which states that a lawyer shall reasonably consult with the client about the means by which the client's objectives are to be accomplished;
- D. RPC 1.4(a)(3), which states that a lawyer shall keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the matter;
- E. RPC 1.4(a)(4) which states that a lawyer shall promptly comply with reasonable requests for information;

- F. RPC 1.4(b), which states that a lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation; and
- G. RPC 1.16(d), which states that, 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.

Aggravating Evidence

57. Respondent has a record of discipline in Pennsylvania. On June 20, 2024, Respondent received an informal admonition relating to two (2) client complaints involving incompetence and neglect and failure to communicate with clients. See ODC File Nos. C2-22-261 & C2-22-886. Respondent violated: RPC 1.1; RPC 1.3; RPC 1.4(a)(2), (3), and (4); RPC 1.4(b); RPC 1.16(a)(3); RPC 1.16(c); RPC 1.16(d); and, RPC 3.2. Client neglect and failure to communicate again are at issue in the instant matters.

Mitigating Circumstances

58. Respondent requests that the Disciplinary Board consider the following life circumstances as mitigating circumstances. In 2023, Respondent's wife filed for divorce and began a two-year period of highly contentious divorce and custody proceedings, seeking, among other things, to severely limit Respondent's time with his twin daughters who were seven (7) years old at the outset of proceedings. Compounding the stress of this situation, Respondent lost his third administrative assistant in less than two (2) years. Respondent acknowledges that he tried to handle too much on his own, admitting that client communications slipped through the cracks and that client matters were not attended to with the competence and diligence that they deserved.

Rehabilitation

59. In May 2026, Respondent reviewed all of his active cases and verified that he is current in all of them. In June 2026, Respondent hired a paralegal to assist with client matters and practice management. Respondent uses Practice Panther practice management software.

60. Respondent represented that all client funds were always appropriately deposited and safeguarded; however, while he reviewed his IOLTA bank statement each month and compared it to his general ledger, he

did not perform three-way reconciliations or maintain all required records, in violation of RPC 1.15(c). Respondent hired Remote Bookkeeping Online to review all his Practice Panther records, reconstruct three-way reconciliations, and review them with him. Finally, he worked with Practice Panther representatives to streamline his office processes so that in times of stress, he can be sure his office will continue to run smoothly.

61. Respondent represents that he has been pivoting away from criminal work to representation of professionals, including nurses and doctors, which comes with high stakes for the clients but is a practice for which Respondent feels he is well suited and which is easier to manage in combination with his time commitments to his children.

62. Respondent's divorce is finalized, and he states that, for the past several months, he and his ex-wife have been able to maintain a level of civility necessary for family peace.

RECOMMENDATION FOR A PUBLIC REPRIMAND ON CONSENT

63. ODC and Respondent jointly recommend that an appropriate discipline for Respondent's admitted misconduct is a public reprimand. Precedent establishes that a prior record of discipline is an aggravating factor, and recidivist offenders receive more severe disciplinary sanctions. *See, Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Frank C. Arcuri*, No. 147 DB 2019 (D.

Bd. Rpt. 8/20/2020) (S. Ct. Order 10/6/2020); *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Peter Jude Caroff*, No. 42 DB 2019 (D. Bd. Rpt. 2/25/2020) (S. Ct. Order 6/5/2020).

64. Respondent consents to that discipline being imposed upon him by the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Respondent's affidavit required by Pa.R.D.E. 215 stating, *inter alia*, his consent to the recommended discipline is attached as Exhibit A.

65. In support of ODC and Respondent's joint recommendation, it is respectfully submitted that the following additional mitigating circumstances are present:

- a. Respondent is cooperating with ODC for purposes of consent discipline; and,
- b. Respondent has expressed remorse and acceptance of responsibility by admitting to violating the Rules of Professional Conduct, understanding he should be disciplined, and consenting to a public reprimand.

66. A public reprimand is consistent with the result in the recent case of *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Illon Ross Fish*, No. 102 DB 2024 (Bd. Order 2/21/2025). Mr. Fish committed misconduct in four separate client matters spanning the time frame 2019 through September 2024. All matters

involved his failure to handle the matters diligently and communicate with his clients, and three matters involved his failure to promptly refund an unearned fee. In a Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent, the parties noted that Mr. Fish: (a) cooperated with ODC; (b) accepted responsibility for his wrongdoing and expressed remorse; and (c) reimbursed unearned fees and engaged in efforts to improve his communications with clients and timely handle their matters. Specifically, in a lengthy meeting with ODC, Mr. Fish, his counsel, and his law office manager described the substantial steps that Mr. Fish had taken to better manage and organize his law practice. Mr. Fish's improvements began at the initial intake interview, continued with the generation of fee agreements, included routine communication with clients, involved enhanced use of technology to facilitate scheduling, and resulted in compliance with the Rules of Professional Conduct.

67. In aggravation, Mr. Fish had a record of discipline consisting of an informal admonition for failing to act with competence and failing to communicate with clients in two unrelated criminal matters. As such, the complaints that led to Mr. Fish's prior informal admonition and to his misconduct addressed in the parties' Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent stemmed from Mr. Fish's challenges with simultaneously practicing law while managing the business of a law firm. Mr. Fish violated:

RPC 1.1; RPC 1.3; RPC 1.4(a)(2), (3), and (4); RPC 1.4(b); RPC 1.15(e); and RPC 1.16(d).

68. A public reprimand is also consistent with the result in *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Deon Basheer Browning*, No. 7 DB 2024 (Bd. Order 6/5/2024). Mr. Browning committed misconduct in two separate client matters. In one matter, Mr. Browning settled his client's personal injury claim, deposited the settlement proceeds in his IOLTA, discussed with the client the possibility of representing him in a criminal appeal, and left the settlement funds in the IOLTA to cover the potential new legal fee. Mr. Browning was never formally retained, nor did he enter his appearance, in the criminal matter. After two years, the client requested immediate remittance of the settlement funds. Mr. Browning failed to promptly respond and distribute the settlement proceeds. In the other client matter, Mr. Browning represented his client in a divorce and engaged in incompetence, neglect, and serious communication failures that resulted in the client's not appearing at a contempt hearing, after which the court found the client in contempt and assessed counsel fees in favor of the opposing party. The client later requested a copy of his client file, and Mr. Browning delayed in providing it. When Mr. Browning's office eventually provided the file, it included a portion of a different client file, which violated client confidentiality.

69. During ODC's investigation of Mr. Browning, ODC served a subpoena for records on him. Mr. Browning appeared at the subpoena return hearing with counsel and admitted that he had bookkeeping issues and commingled earned fees with client funds in his IOLTA and used his IOLTA for non-client related transactions, rather than first transferring earned fees to his operating account. Mr. Browning also used his IOLTA for business expenses. Mr. Browning violated: RPC 1.1; RPC 1.3; RPC 1.4(a)(2); RPC 1.4(a)(3); RPC 1.4(a)(4); RPC 1.4(b); RPC 1.6(d); RPC 1.15(c); RPC 1.15(e); and, RPC 5.3(b).

70. A public reprimand on consent would embrace progressive discipline, as in *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. William E. Vinsko, Jr.*, No. 4 DB 2022 (D. Bd. Order 1/18/2022), wherein the Disciplinary Board ordered Mr. Vinsko should receive a public reprimand because, despite multiple requests by the client, Mr. Vinsko delayed making filings to move litigation forward in a civil matter concerning breach of a lease agreement by a school district. Mr. Vinsko also failed to communicate with the client and failed to provide documents and information when requested. After the client retained new counsel, Mr. Vinsko provided the client with a refund, withdrew from the case, apologized to the client, and acknowledged that he should have taken action sooner and that his dilatory conduct allowed the school district to

unnecessarily prolong the dispute. Mr. Vinsko violated: RPC 1.1; RPC 1.3; RPC 1.4(a)(2), (3), and (4); RPC 1.4(b); and RPC 3.2. Mr. Vinsko had a record of discipline consisting of a 2019 public reprimand and a 2020 informal admonition. *See also Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Hay Yeon Baik*, 192 DB 2016 (PR 12/7/2016) (public reprimand for unauthorized practice of law in New Jersey; prior informal admonition in Pennsylvania and public reprimand in New Jersey within preceding two years served as aggravating factors).

71. Two other cases support the recommendation that Respondent should receive a public reprimand for his admitted misconduct in the instant matters. First, in *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Jeffrey Dean Servin*, 118 DB 2015 (Bd. Order 7/23/2016), Mr. Servin received a public reprimand for neglect, failure to communicate, and failure to refund unearned fees in a debt collection matter. Mr. Servin had a record of prior discipline in Pennsylvania that served as an aggravating factor. Mr. Servin had two prior informal admonitions and a public reprimand in the four years that preceded the complaint that led to the 2016 Board Order for a public reprimand.

72. Second, in *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. George W. Bills, Jr.*, 108 DB 2022 (Bd. Order 9/15/2022), Mr. Bills received a public reprimand with the condition that he refund fees to his client for failure to communicate,

mishandling of client funds, and failure to refund unearned fee. Mr. Bills had a record of prior discipline in Pennsylvania that served as an aggravating factor. Mr. Bills had an informal admonition and a public reprimand, both with the condition that he refund fees, in the four years preceding the complaint that led to the 2022 Board Order.

73. Here, as in *Fish*, *Vinsko*, *Servin* and *Bills*, Respondent has a record of discipline. Like Mr. Fish, Respondent's misconduct stemmed from his challenges with simultaneously practicing law while managing the business of a solo practice. Respondent has undertaken constructive measures to address his law office management issues and to better balance his personal life with his professional obligations.

74. Also similar to Mr. Vinsko, Respondent delayed and neglected the Saracino divorce and the K.G. and C.B. nursing disciplinary matters, despite client requests for status updates and their desire to move their legal matters forward. As part of consent discipline, Respondent is acknowledging, as did Mr. Vinsko, that his misconduct unnecessarily caused client harm. Moreover, as in *ODC v. Browning*, *ODC v. Servin* and *ODC v. Bills*, Respondent neglected and failed to communicate with his clients; however, in contrast to *ODC v. Browning*, all unearned fees were kept in trust and already have been returned to the clients. Finally, as in *ODC v. Browning*,

Respondent admitted that he failed to comply to the letter of RPC 1.15(c). Respondent has hired an independent bookkeeping company to review his records, create three-way reconciliations for the past five (5) years, and continue the reconciliation process moving forward. Respondent also has hired a paralegal, met with Practice Panther representatives, and taken steps to better manage his solo practice.

75. Considering his mitigating factors and rehabilitation, Respondent's misconduct is not so severe that it warrants a suspension; however, Respondent's recidivism necessitates public discipline and is consistent with the above-referenced matters in which respondents have received public reprimands.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner and Respondent respectfully request that, pursuant to Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement 215(e), 215(g) and 215(i), a three-member panel of the Disciplinary Board review and approve the Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent and Order that Respondent receive a public reprimand.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL
THOMAS J. FARRELL
Attorney Registration No. 20955
Chief Disciplinary Counsel

September 24, 2026

DATE



Elizabeth A. Livingston,
Disciplinary Counsel
Attorney Registration Number 208126
Office of Disciplinary Counsel District II
Suite 170, 820 Adams Avenue
Trooper, PA 19403
(610) 650-8210

9/21/26

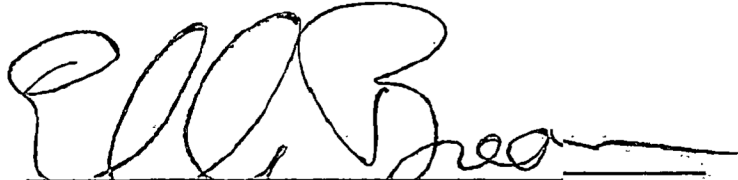
DATE



James Henderson Bonner, Esquire
Attorney Registration Number 319719
Respondent

9/23/26

DATE



Ellen C. Brotman, Esquire
Attorney Registration Number 71775
Counsel for Respondent

VERIFICATION

The statements contained in the foregoing *Joint Petition In Support of Discipline on Consent Discipline* are true and correct to the best of my knowledge or information and belief and are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S.A. §4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

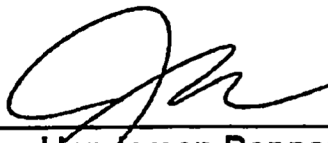
September 24, 2026

DATE



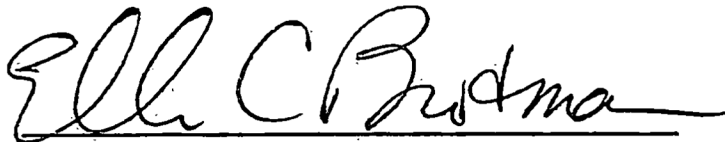
Elizabeth A. Livingston, Esquire
Disciplinary Counsel

9/21/26
DATE



James Henderson Bonner, Esquire
Respondent

9/24/26
DATE



Ellen C. Brotman, Esquire
Counsel for Respondent

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

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL,:	No.	DB 2026
Petitioner	:	
v.	:	
	:	Attorney Reg. No. 319719
JAMES HENDERSON BONNER,	:	
Respondent	:	(Delaware 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 204 Pa. Code §89.22 (relating to service by a participant).

First Class Mail and Email, as follows:

Ellen C. Brotman, Esquire
Brotman Law, PLLC
300 NJ Avenue NW, Suite 300
Washington, D.C., 20001
ebrotman@ellenbrotmanlaw.com

Dated: September 24, 2026



Elizabeth A. Livingston, Esquire
Disciplinary Counsel
Attorney Registration No. 208126
Office of Disciplinary Counsel District II
820 Adams Avenue, Suite 170
Trooper, PA 19403
(610) 650- 8210

EXHIBIT A

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

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL,:	No.	DB 2026
Petitioner	:	
v.	:	
	:	Attorney Reg. No. 319719
JAMES HENDERSON BONNER,	:	
Respondent	:	(Delaware County)

**AFFIDAVIT
UNDER RULE 215(d), Pa.R.D.E.**

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA:
COUNTY OF DELAWARE:

JAMES HENDERSON BONNER, being duly sworn according to law, deposes and hereby submits this affidavit consenting to the recommendation of a Public Reprimand on Consent in conformity with Pa.R.D.E. 215(d) and further states as follows:

1. He is an attorney admitted in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, having been admitted to the Bar on December 3, 2014.
2. He desires to submit a Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent Pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 215(d).
3. His consent 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 affidavit.

4. He is aware that there are presently pending proceedings into allegations that he has been guilty of misconduct as set forth in the Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent Pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 215(d) to which this affidavit is attached.

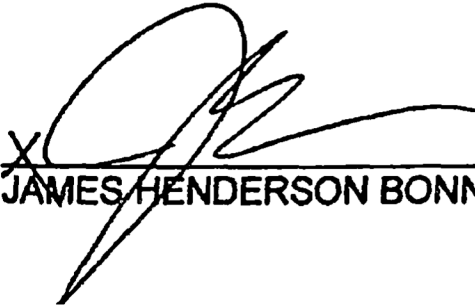
5. He acknowledges that the material facts set forth in the Joint Petition are true.

6. He submits this affidavit because he knows that if charges predicated upon the matters under investigation were filed, or continued to be prosecuted in the pending proceedings, he could not successfully defend against them.

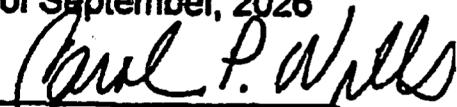
7. He acknowledges that he is fully aware of his right to consult and employ counsel to represent him in the instant proceeding. He has retained, consulted and acted upon the advice of his counsel, Ellen C. Brotman, Esquire, in connection with his decision to execute the Joint Petition and this Affidavit.

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

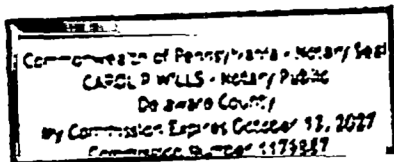
Signed this 21st day of September, 2026.


X _____
JAMES HENDERSON BONNER

Sworn to and subscribed
before me this 21st day
of September, 2026



Notary Public



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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth A. Livingston", written over a horizontal line.

Signature: _____

Name: Elizabeth A. Livingston, Esq.

Attorney No. (if applicable): 208126