

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

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL,	:	No. 186 DB 2016
Petitioner	:	
	:	File No. C1-15-658
v.	:	
	:	Attorney Registration No. 52478
CAROL ANN FORTI	:	
Respondent	:	(Out of State)

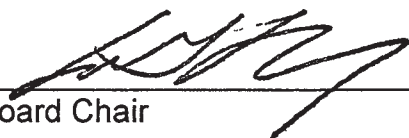
ORDER

AND NOW, this 12th day of December, 2016, 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 CAROL ANN FORTI 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.

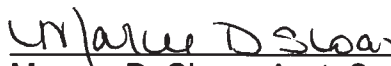
Costs shall be paid by the Respondent.

BY THE BOARD:



Board Chair

TRUE COPY FROM RECORD
Attest:



Marcee D. Sloan, Asst. Secretary
The Disciplinary Board of the
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

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PUBLIC REPRIMAND

Carol Ann Forti, 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.

Ms. Forti, on July 12, 2013 at 10:59 a.m., you contacted Nicholas DiPasquale, Director of Environmental Protection Agency Region III's Chesapeake Bay Program Office, via email, requesting that Mr. DiPasquale sign and send a letter, dated July 11, 2013, that you had drafted to Katie Speights, who was a leasing consultant for the Watergate Village Apartments in Annapolis, Maryland. Your July 11, 2013, letter indicated that you "had been offered the position of Counselor and Senior Policy Advisor to the Director of the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Program ["CBRP"], advising the Director of that program" and indicated that your salary was \$135,000.00. The letter was over Mr. DiPasquale's name and position. By email dated July 12, 2013 at 12:35 p.m., Mr. DiPasquale responded to your request stating that "there is no way [DiPasquale] can even consider signing such a letter. It would be a fraud. As an attorney, you must know

that. [DiPasquale has] not been contacted by anyone in the administration about hiring [Respondent] as a senior policy advisor.” After receiving Mr. DiPasquale’s response informing you that he would not sign the letter, you sent the July 11, 2013 letter to Ms. Speights and the Watergate Village Apartments with Mr. DiPasquale’s “electronic” signature for the purpose of obtaining housing for your working and living arrangements. Mr. DiPasquale notified Watergate Village Apartments of the fact that the letter was phony and a forgery.

In a second matter, you failed to include your admission to the United States Supreme Court on your annual attorney registration forms from 2012-2013 to 2015-2016, in section 12 of the registration statement, which requires the identification of any court of jurisdiction where an attorney has ever been licensed to practice law.

Your conduct in this matter has violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct (“RPC”) and Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement (“Pa.R.D.E.”):


1. RPC 8.4(a) – It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to violate or attempt to violate the Rules of Professional Conduct, knowingly assist or induce another to do so, or do so through the acts of another.
2. 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.
3. RPC 8.4(c) – It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.
4. Pa.R.D.E. 203(b)(3) via 219(d)(1)(i) – Failing to include your admission to the United States Supreme Court on your annual registration statement forms.

We note that you have been admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth since 1988 and have never been the subject of professional discipline.

Ms. Forti, 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.



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 April 5, 2017.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The undersigned, Respondent in the above proceeding, herewith acknowledges that the above Public Reprimand was administered in her presence and in the presence of the designated panel of The Disciplinary Board at 1601 Market Street, Suite 3320, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on April 5, 2017.



Carol Ann Forti