

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

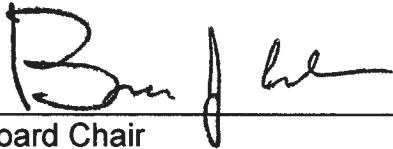
OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL : No. 186 DB 2018
Petitioner :
v. : Attorney Registration No. 87739
WILLIAM E. VINSKO, JR. :
Respondent : (Luzerne County)

ORDER

AND NOW, this 22nd day of October, 2018, 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 the said WILLIAM E. VINSKO, JR. 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
Asst. Secretary of the Board
The Disciplinary Board of the
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

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OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL	:	No. 186 DB 2018
Petitioner	:	
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v.	:	
	:	Attorney Registration No. 87739
WILLIAM E. VINSKO, JR.	:	
Respondent	:	(Luzerne County)

PUBLIC REPRIMAND

William E. Vinsko, Jr., 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. Vinsko, the record indicates that you are being reprimanded today for your misconduct in one matter.

During the course of your representation of Swinka Realty Investments LLC, you filed a civil rights complaint against the Lackawanna County Tax Claim Bureau in state court, which was removed to the District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. The District Court granted summary judgment in favor of the defendant, and you appealed to the Third Circuit. The Third Circuit affirmed the District Court decision in favor of the County defendants.

In its Opinion filed on May 2, 2017, the Third Circuit noted that you, as Swinka's counsel, had improperly cast aspersions on the District Court's analytical ability. The Court detailed thirteen instances from your brief wherein you commented on the integrity and qualifications of the District Court judge.

You acknowledged that certain language contained in the Swinka pleadings was inappropriate and could be interpreted as an improper challenge of the District Court's integrity and qualifications. Your public statements in court pleadings require public correction which can only be accomplished through public discipline.

As a result of your conduct, you have violated the following Rule of Professional Conduct ("RPC"):

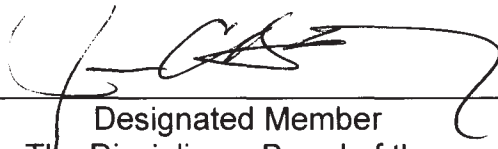
1. RPC 8.2(a) – A lawyer shall not make a statement that the lawyer knows to be false or with reckless disregard as to its truth or falsity concerning the qualifications or integrity of a judge.

It is my duty to reprimand you for your misconduct. We note in mitigation that you have expressed remorse and that you have practiced law for seventeen years and have no prior discipline. Please be aware that any subsequent violations on your part can only result in further discipline and perhaps more severe sanctions. We sincerely hope that you will conduct yourself in such a manner that future disciplinary action will be unnecessary.

Mr. Vinsko, 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

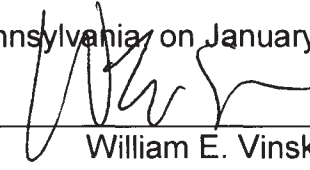


Designated Member
The Disciplinary Board of the
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

Administered by a designated panel of three Members of The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on January 7, 2019.

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 the Board offices located at 1601 Market Street, Suite 3320, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on January 7, 2019.



William E. Vinsko, Jr.