

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 Enforcement Rules.

2. Respondent was born in 1977 and was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth on October 4, 2004. Respondent is on active status and his last registered address is 817 Wetherill Lane, Wayne, PA 19087.

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

SPECIFIC FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS ADMITTED

4. On June 15, 2023, at 10:15 p.m., Respondent was driving his vehicle with his wife as a passenger at the intersection of North Wayne Avenue and Upper Gulph Road in Tredyffrin Township, Chester County.

5. Respondent struck another vehicle from behind, while the vehicle was stopped at a red light. The vehicle Respondent struck was driven by Marcus Krapels and occupied by Mr. Krapels' 15-year-old daughter and two other 15-year-old occupants.

6. Mr. Krapels exited his vehicle and approached Respondent's vehicle.

7. Respondent did not provide Mr. Krapels with his insurance

information or stop to render aid but instead drove around the victim and left the scene.

8. Mr. Krapels' vehicle had extensive rear end damage, including the entire lift gate being pushed into a v-like impression and a completely shattered rear window.

9. When police officers arrived on the scene Mr. Krapels provided them with a description of Respondent's vehicle, a partial plate number and a description of Respondent and his passenger.

10. Officers followed a trail of damage and approximately 40 minutes later arrived at Respondent's residence and observed the described vehicle in Respondent's residence through his garage.

11. Respondent's vehicle had damage including a crumpled hood sticking up like a tent and additional damage to the front end.

12. Upon making contact with Respondent, officers identified him as matching the description provided by Mr. Krapels.

13. The officers observed that Respondent was slurring his words, unsteady on his feet and moving slowly.

14. Respondent did admit to having dinner at a restaurant on North Wayne Avenue.

15. Respondent did not admit that he was involved in the crash.

16. On July 31, 2023, Respondent was arraigned and charged with one misdemeanor and three summary offenses: Accident Involving Damage to Attended Vehicle or Property; Failure to Stop and Give Information and Render Aid; Careless Driving; and Driving at Safe Speed.

17. On October 11, 2023, the District Attorney denied Respondent's application for Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition.

18. On April 3, 2024, Respondent pled guilty pursuant to a plea agreement to one count of Accident Involving Damage to Attended Vehicle or Property. The remaining charges were withdrawn.

19. On April 3, 2024, Respondent was sentenced to: one year of probation; a \$500.00 fine; a drug and alcohol evaluation followed by recommended treatment; and no contact with the victim or his family members.

20. By letter dated April 19, 2024, Respondent timely notified ODC of his conviction in accordance with Pa.R.D.E. 214(a).

21. On June 26, 2024, ODC filed the Notice of Conviction with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Case No. 3061 DD3, and issued to Respondent a DB-7 Request for Statement of Position regarding his criminal conduct.

22. On August 7, 2024, Respondent through his counsel Arthur

Thomas Donato, Jr. Esquire, submitted his Statement of Position.

**SPECIFIC RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND
RULE OF DISCIPLINARY ENFORCEMENT VIOLATED**

23. By his conduct as set forth in paragraphs 4 through 22 Respondent admits that he violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct and Rule of Disciplinary Enforcement:

A. RPC 8.4(b), which states that it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to: . . . commit a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's . . . fitness as a lawyer in other respects;

B. RPC 8.4(c), which states that it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation; and

C. Pa.R.D.E 203(b)(1) – which provides that conviction of a crime is grounds for discipline.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION FOR DISCIPLINE

24. ODC and Respondent jointly submit that Respondent should receive discipline in the form of a Public Reprimand before the Disciplinary Board.

25. Respondent hereby consents to the discipline being imposed upon him by the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Attached to this Petition as Exhibit A is Respondent's executed Affidavit required by Pa. R.D.E. 215(d)(1) through (4).

26. Aggravating factors include:

- a) The evidence, in both the affidavit and sentence imposed, suggests that Respondent was drinking and driving;
- b) The victim's vehicle contained three teenagers including the victim's fifteen-year-old daughter;
- c) When questioned by the police Respondent denied being involved in the accident;
- d) Respondent only sought to remedy the situation after he was confronted by police and charged.

27. The parties agree the following are mitigating factors:

- a) Respondent has no prior history of discipline in over 20 years as an attorney; and
- b) Respondent has demonstrated remorse and acceptance of responsibility by his guilty plea and willingness to enter into consent discipline.

28. If this matter proceeded to hearing, Respondent would testify and

assert that the following also serve to mitigate his misconduct:

- a) The day after the hit and run, Respondent called an attorney evidencing his willingness to cooperate with authorities;
- b) Respondent voluntarily surrendered, waived the preliminary hearing, waived formal arraignment and filed no pretrial motions;
- c) Respondent expressed a willingness to plead guilty early on in the proceeding and avoided the victim having to testify;
- d) Respondent has already been penalized by the criminal justice system;
- e) Respondent has stopped drinking alcohol of his own accord;
- f) Respondent is ashamed of his behavior that night;
- g) Respondent is involved in his community including:
 - a. Being an active member of St. Katherine's of Siena in Wayne, PA along with his wife and children;
 - b. Fundraising and donating money in support of Fox Chase Cancer Center; and
 - c. Volunteering as a basketball coach for several girls' youth teams.

29. Respondent's actions throughout the course of the evening of

June 15, 2023, reflected adversely on his honesty and trustworthiness including his initial denial to the police that he had caused an accident.

30. As is often the case with attorney disciplinary matters, there is no case that is precisely on point. An examination of prior criminal convictions with similar facts have resulted in suspensions of varying lengths. In ***ODC v. Stanley Silver***, 22 DB 2007 (S. Ct. Order 05/05/2008), the court imposed a six-month suspension on Silver. Silver was convicted of accident involving damage to attended vehicle or property, driving while operating privileges are suspended or revoked and driving within a single lane. Silver sideswiped a vehicle and did not stop. The victim followed Silver and obtained his license plate number. Police ran the plate and discovered that Silver was driving his brother-in-law's vehicle.

Silver is distinguishable from the instant matter in several aspects. At the time of the incident Silver's license was suspended and he was serving a 60 weekend only jail sentence for driving on a suspended license. Silver had nine previous convictions for the summary offense of driving with a suspended license. On the Accident Involving Damage to Attended Vehicle or Property, Silver was sentenced to a minimum of 45 days to 12 months in prison and a fine of \$2,500.00. Silver did not report his conviction to ODC.

31. In *ODC v. Michael James Donohue*, 136 DB 2013, (S. Ct. Order 03/31/2014), upon consideration of a Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent, the Supreme Court imposed a one-year suspension, with eight months stayed, four months served, and one year of probation with several conditions. Donohue was convicted of Accidents Involving Death or Injury, Reckless Driving, Failure to Give Information and Render Aid, Failure to Give Notice of Accident to Police, and Careless Driving. Donohue struck a fourteen-year-old pedestrian. Donohue did not stop to render aid, nor did he report the incident to the police. The child was rendered unconscious, remained in the roadway until medics arrived and suffered numerous injuries including a fractured hip. Police were able to locate Donohue based upon information supplied to them. Donohue's vehicle was parked in his garage, and he gave them consent to search his garage. The police investigation also revealed that he had been drinking at a bar earlier that evening.

At his sentencing Donohue apologized to the victim and his family. Donohue was sentenced to a minimum of four months incarceration. Donohue represented that he suffered from alcohol dependence at the time of the collision, became involved with Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers and began alcohol counseling with a psychologist. Although there are similar facts in **Donohue** and the instant matter, **Donohue** is distinguishable based

on several aggravating factors. Donohue not only fled the scene after hitting a pedestrian causing significant physical injury, but he was also employed as an Assistant District Attorney at the time of the incident.

32. Respondent Bruno struck an occupied vehicle causing damage, fled the scene without notifying authorities, and obscured his damaged vehicle in his garage. Respondent made no effort to report his involvement in the accident to the authorities. Although Respondent did not allow authorities inside his garage to view the vehicle, nor did he initially admit to his involvement in the accident, Respondent's misconduct does not have the same egregious aggravating factors found in **Silver** and **Donohue** which resulted in suspensions.

33. It has been established that when considering the level of discipline to be imposed, each case must be decided individually considering its unique facts and circumstances, "being mindful of the need for consistency in results reached in disciplinary cases so that similar misconduct is not punished in radically different way." *ODC v. Robert Lucarini*, 472 A.2d 186, 190 (Pa. 1983).

34. In **ODC v. Thomas M. Cusack, III**, 243 DB 2018, the Board approved the Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent. Cusack was given a Public Reprimand and was placed on probation for two years with

conditions as a result of two separate matters. In the first matter, Cusack pled guilty to DUI: Highest Rate of Alcohol (BAC .16+) -First Offense and DUI: General Impairment/Incapable of Driving Safely. Cusack was sentenced to incarceration for a period of time served to six (6) months and a fine of \$1,000.00. Cusack failed to report his criminal conviction to ODC.

Secondly, Cusack was found to have represented a client while administrative suspension. With respect to his criminal conviction Cusack acknowledged that he had a substance abuse problem, completed treatment and received ongoing individual therapy. Although the facts of *Cusack* differ, like Respondent Bruno he had 20 years of practice without prior discipline and was willing to enter into consent discipline for a Public Reprimand.

35. The accident Respondent caused did not result in any bodily injury. Respondent admits that his conduct adversely reflected upon his honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness to practice law and that his conduct that evening was "particularly inappropriate" as a member of the bar. Respondent pleaded to a misdemeanor in the third degree. The circumstances in this matter do not require a suspension.

36. Under the totality of circumstances, it is respectfully submitted that a Public Reprimand will adequately address the main issues at the

heart of Respondent's misconduct: namely, Respondent's lack of honesty and trustworthiness.

37. Based on the factual circumstances presented, Respondent's lack of a prior history of discipline, and precedent it is jointly requested that Respondent receive a Public Reprimand. This resolution will serve to protect the public and maintain the integrity and interests of the legal profession and the Bar of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.


WHEREFORE, Petitioner and Respondent respectfully request that:

- a) Pursuant to Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement 215(e) and 215(g) a Three-Member Panel of the Disciplinary Board review and approve the Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent; and schedule imposition of a Public Reprimand; and
- b) Pursuant to Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement 215(i), the Three-Member Panel enter an Order for Respondent to pay the necessary expenses in the investigation and prosecution of this matter, and that under Pa. R.D.E. 208(g)(1), all expenses be paid by Respondent within 30 days after the Notice of taxed expenses is sent to Respondent.


Respectfully submitted,

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

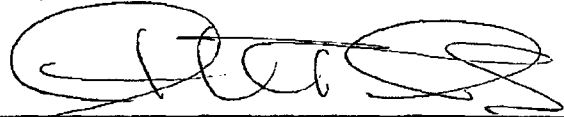
2/18/2025
DATE


Jennifer Flemister
Disciplinary Counsel
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Office of Disciplinary Counsel District II
Suite 170, 820 Adams Avenue
Trooper, PA 19403
(610) 650-8210

2-13-2025
DATE


Douglas J. Bruno
Attorney Registration Number 92886
Respondent

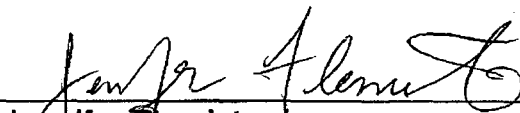
2-17-2025
DATE


Arthur T. Donato, Esquire
Attorney Registration Number 31666
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.

2/18/2025
DATE



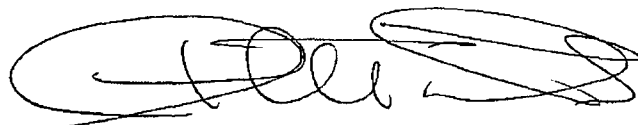
Jennifer Flemister
Disciplinary Counsel

2-13-2025
DATE



Douglas J. Bruno
Respondent

2-17-2025
DATE



Arthur T. Donato, Jr., Esquire
Counsel for Respondent

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

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL,	:	No. 3061 DD3
	:	
Petitioner	:	
	:	
v.	:	No. DB 202*
	:	
	:	
	:	Attorney Reg. No. 92886
	:	
DOUGLAS J. BRUNO	:	
	:	
Respondent	:	(Chester County)

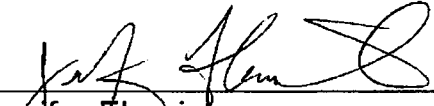
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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 and Overnight Mail, as follows:

Arthur T. Donato, Jr., Esquire
Law Offices of Arthur Thomas Donato
216 W. Front St.
Media, PA 19063

Dated: 2/18/2025



Jennifer Flemister
Disciplinary Counsel
Attorney Registration No. 326103
Office of Disciplinary Counsel District II
820 Adams Avenue, Suite 170
Trooper, PA 19403
(610) 650- 8210

4. He is aware that there is presently pending a proceeding 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.

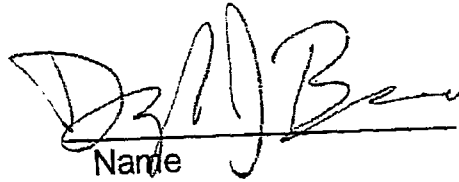
5. He acknowledges that the material facts set forth in the Joint Petition are true.

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

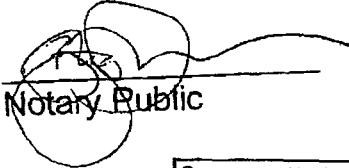
7. He acknowledges that he is fully aware of his right to consult and employ counsel to represent him in the instant proceeding. He has/has not retained, consulted and acted upon the advice of counsel, in connection with his decision to execute the within Joint Petition.

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 13th day of February, 202⁵***.


Name

Sworn to and subscribed
before me this day
of , 202⁵***


Notary Public


Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal
Bryan Doane, Notary Public
Chester County
My commission expires December 4, 2028
Commission number 1455563
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries

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:



Name: Jennifer Flemister

Attorney No. (if applicable): 326103