

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL : No. 39 DB 2022
Petitioner :
v. : Attorney Registration No. 49055
MILTON E. RAIFORD :
Respondent : (Allegheny County)

ORDER

AND NOW, this 20th day of April 2022, 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 MILTON E. RAIFORD 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

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Respondent	:	(Allegheny County)
	:	

RECOMMENDATION OF THREE-MEMBER PANEL
OF THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

The Three-Member Panel of the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, consisting of Board Members Shohin Hadizadeh Vance, Dion G. Rassias and David S. Senoff, has reviewed the Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent filed in the above-captioned matter on March 10, 2022.

The Panel approves the Joint Petition consenting to a Public Reprimand recommends to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania that the attached Petition be Granted.

The Panel further recommends that any necessary expenses incurred in the investigation and prosecution of this matter shall be paid by the respondent-attorney as a condition to the grant of the Petition.



Shohin Hadizadeh Vance, Panel Chair
The Disciplinary Board of the
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

Date: April 20, 2022

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, :
Petitioner : No. **39**DB 2022
 :
v. :
 :
 : Attorney Registration No. 49055
MILTON E. RAIFORD, :
Respondent : (Allegheny County)

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

Petitioner, the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, by Thomas J. Farrell, Chief Disciplinary Counsel, and Daniel S. White, Disciplinary Counsel, and Respondent, Milton E. Raiford, Esquire, file this Joint Petition in Support Of Discipline On Consent Pursuant to Rule 215(d), Pa.R.D.E. and respectfully represent as follows:

1. Petitioner, whose principal office is located at Pennsylvania Judicial Center, Suite 2700, 601 Commonwealth Avenue, P. O. Box 62485, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17106-2485, is invested, pursuant to Rule 207 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement (hereafter "Pa.R.D.E."), with the power and the duty to investigate all matters involving alleged misconduct of an attorney admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of

FILED
03/10/2022
The Disciplinary Board of the
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania and to prosecute all disciplinary proceedings brought in accordance with the various provisions of the aforesaid Rules.

2. Respondent, Milton E. Raiford, was born in 1955. He was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on May 27, 1987.

3. Respondent's attorney registration mailing address is 3301 Longbow Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15235.

4. Respondent is presently on active status.

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

SPECIFIC FACTUAL ADMISSIONS

Derrick Means

6. On July 29, 2020, Derrick Means was arrested and charged with, *inter alia*, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

7. On November 3, 2020, a Criminal Information was filed in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County charging Mr. Means with, *inter alia*, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, docketed at CP-02-CR-0006799-2020 (hereinafter the "Means Criminal Proceedings").

8. On November 5, 2020, Respondent entered an appearance on Mr. Means' behalf in the Means Criminal Proceedings.

9. On February 8, 2021, Respondent filed a Motion to Withdraw as Counsel in the Means Criminal Proceedings.

10. On February 23, 2021, Respondent appeared before the Honorable Anthony M. Mariani in connection with the Means Criminal Proceedings at which time, *inter alia*, Respondent had the following exchange with Judge Mariani:

MR. RAIFORD: ...regardless of what Mr. Means did -- and yes, I'm trying to work my way out of this. And I'm proposing to get off of Mr. Means' case because I believe that he shot this guy. And I believe -- I believe the victim's testimony more than Means' and that's why I'm done with Means.

...

THE COURT: I think you need to file a Rule 600 motion, except you're getting out of the case. And I cannot allow you to continue on the case because of the statement you made on the record today.

...

THE COURT: ...I am going to grant your motion to withdraw right now because of a statement you made on record today which, to me, says you can't go forward with Mr. Means' best interests. But you've already kind of said that in your motion.

11. The expression of Respondent's personal opinion regarding Mr. Means' guilt and credibility was prejudicial to Mr. Means and did not advance Mr. Means' interests in any way.

12. Mr. Means was not present during the February 23, 2021 proceeding due to a COVID-19 quarantine at the Allegheny County Jail.

13. By Order dated February 23, 2021, the Motion to Withdraw as Counsel set forth in paragraph 9 *supra* was granted.

Vanessa Williams

14. On July 24, 2019, a criminal information was filed in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County charging Vanessa Williams with, *inter alia*, Aggravated Assault by Vehicle while Driving Under the Influence, docketed at CP-02-CR-0006141-2019 (hereinafter the “Williams Criminal Proceedings”).

15. On November 19, 2019, Respondent entered an appearance on Ms. Williams’ behalf in the Williams Criminal Proceedings.

16. A non-jury trial was scheduled in the Williams Criminal Proceedings for June 9, 2021, before Judge Mariani.

17. The Court notified Respondent of the June 9, 2021 non-jury trial. Respondent did not seek a continuance of this non-jury trial.

18. On June 9, 2021, Respondent appeared with Ms. Williams before Judge Mariani, at which time, *inter alia*, Respondent informed the Court that he would not represent Ms. Williams or otherwise act on her behalf and had the following exchange with Judge Mariani:

THE COURT: Mr. Raiford, are you going to fulfill your function as a lawyer whose appearance is in on behalf of Vanessa Williams --

MR. RAIFORD: Not until [Allegheny County District Attorney Stephen A.] Zappala [Jr.] meets with --

THE COURT: "Yes" or "no"?

MR. RAIFORD: No. Not until he meets with me or he resigns or unless he recuses himself from all of my cases.

...

THE COURT: ... But you need legal representation, and Mr. Raiford is refusing to offer it. I just asked him that. He won't do it.

Mr. Raiford, will you reconsider?

MR. RAIFORD: Nope. Not until Mr. Zappala resigns or until he meets with me as I requested through his chief prosecutor. His chief -- I requested a meeting with him through his chief investigator, and he refused to meet with me. And then he e-mails -- it's like Frank Walker said, he's cowardly.

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Raiford has, on the record, refused to honor his obligation as counsel of record in a case that is scheduled for trial today, scheduled at his request. This case is scheduled today because both lawyers were consulted when the case was postponed the last time. Today was the day.

In fact, Mr. Raiford asked for the Court to go view the scene involved in this case, which was scheduled to be done. It's even on the court docket. So, Mr. Raiford, you don't leave me any choice here. You don't. Can I urge you to reconsider your position as a lawyer? Not as a person. We are not here to talk about who you are.

You know I have nothing but respect for who you are. I've said it many times, and I still have nothing but respect for who you are. But you also have a function here as counsel of record to somebody whose fate is dependent on your performing your duty that you signed up for.

MR. RAIFORD: I have heard Judge Cashman say to

people, and I heard you allude to it this morning about control over a person's life. Every time Judge Cashman says "I now have control over your life," it reeks of something that puts him in a position of being superior than the God that created us all.

I don't like that. I don't think it's Godly. I think it's -- the law is strength of sin. The law is the strength of it. You guys are holding people to accountability, particularly poor and minority people, that you can't fulfill yourselves. You are asking me to stand by an oath that you violate every day by not doing -- dispensing justice.

By not having empathy. I have seen you go toe to toe with people that were schizophrenic, depressed, and you go toe to toe with them like they are accountable for their actions. You go toe to toe with them as though they have the same -- the growing up that you did, as though they had the same father that you did. You go toe to toe with them as though they are responsible that you are holding them to your standard of accomplishment. You go toe to toe with them.

And then you guys act like everybody can be Mr. Raiford. No, you can't. Not everybody calls me Milt Raiford. I heard that. Everybody thinks that. Something is wrong with me. No, everybody can't be me. What about these kids from Homewood? What about these kids from East Liberty? What about these kids from East Hills? You guys forget that fact that I came from there.

THE COURT: What are you talking about, everybody is supposed to be Milt Raiford? I don't understand that.

MR. RAIFORD: It's -- you know how many calls I got from court personnel saying --

THE COURT: No. I want you to relate to -- you are saying it in this room. Are you saying I told people to be Milt Raiford?

MR. RAIFORD: No. I think that there's a level where we don't have empathy as a court for people of color and poor

people. It's hard to grow up in a row house in Homewood.

...

THE COURT: I am trying to allow to you [*sic*] speak a little bit because of my respect for you, but you still are ignoring your duty to Vanessa Williams, because she is here for her case today. She is not here for what's going on with you and Mr. Zappala, whatever that is. She's not here for all the other people you are talking about.

She's here for her personal future that you have said, I will be the person advocating for her, and now you are backing off of it.

MR. RAIFORD: I'm not backing off of it.

THE COURT: Well, then let's do the trial and you can address this other stuff in another forum. But this isn't the forum for it.

MR. RAIFORD: Yeah. But as long as --

THE COURT: If you have complaints against how I handle myself as a judge, there's a place for you to make that complaint. Not here --

MR. RAIFORD: It's not just you. It's arrogance in the building. This building is a cesspool for white privilege. It's you and everybody else up here. It's arrogant. There's nobody in city court but Black people. There's nobody. Rich white people don't go to jail.

THE COURT: What does that have to do with Vanessa Williams? What does that have to do with her interests today? Tell me.

MR. RAIFORD: See, what would have happened -- what would happen if after the death of George Floyd all the protestors, all the professional athletes that took a knee for a day or took games off for two days. The news cycle was past it. What you are asking me to do is get past it.

I can't get past it, because if I am disobedient to what God is telling me to say, I fear him more than you. I fear him more than my client. I fear him more than my oath to represent people as a lawyer.

...

THE COURT: Mr. Raiford. Mr. Raiford, the issue is whether you, as counsel of record, are going to act on your client's behalf today. "Yes" or "no"?

MR. RAIFORD: My responsibility to her as her lawyer was to tell her what my stance was going to take in advance. I told her. I told her don't feel any pressure about saying that you want me to stay as your lawyer. I repeated that to her a second ago. She's under no pressure. She's *[sic]* can get any lawyer you want to.

I think that in this particular case, Ms. Hong-Barco may have offered me something that I thought was reasonable. I said that to her outside. I just can't operate with Ms. Hong-Barco as long as she is an agent of Steve Zappala.

THE COURT: Okay. Well, then you are formally indicating again that you will not act as counsel in the normal way counsel acts with regard to a case being called for trial on the day it was scheduled by, among other people, that counsel. Fair?

MR. RAIFORD: I didn't hear your question.

THE COURT: You are indicating again that you will not act in the way -- usual way expected of somebody who is counsel of record on behalf of a client whose case is scheduled for trial on that day's call, which is today. You are saying you won't act; right?

MR. RAIFORD: See, the thing about it is --

THE COURT: Didn't you just say you won't?

MR. RAIFORD: Yeah, I said that. But this is the pressure that you are putting on my client.

THE COURT: No, I am putting the pressure on you, sir, on you.

MR. RAIFORD: You are putting pressure on her.

THE COURT: You. You are taking --

MR. RAIFORD: What are you going to do? What are you going to do? Are you going to send her to jail --

THE COURT: Mr. Raiford --

MR. RAIFORD: -- because I didn't get off the case?

THE COURT: -- you are taking your client's case --

MR. RAIFORD: That's the question she asked you.

THE COURT: -- and making this your personal forum.

MR. RAIFORD: She just asked you whether or not she was going to go to jail. She just asked you that.

THE COURT: Listen to me. You are trying to sidestep the issue, sir. You are trying to sidestep the issue. This is not your personal forum. This is Ms. Williams' day to have her case heard, and she, up until today, had a very competent lawyer who indicated he was going to go forward with her case today. Even made special arrangements to view the scene.

Now, he shows up today, that's you, and starts attacking the entire system of justice in Allegheny County and says he will not go forward as her advocate in the trial today.

Did you not do that?

MR. RAIFORD: I did.

THE COURT: Okay. And are you standing by that position?

MR. RAIFORD: I am.

19. Respondent's refusal to represent Ms. Williams' interests during the scheduled non-jury trial left her without representation for such proceeding.

20. Respondent's assertion that Mr. Zappala "refused to meet with me" did not advance Ms. Williams' interests in any way.

21. As a result of Respondent's refusal to represent Ms. Williams at the June 9, 2021 non-jury trial in the Williams Criminal Proceedings, the matter had to be rescheduled for a future date.

22. As a result of Respondent's refusal to represent Ms. Williams at the June 9, 2021 non-jury trial in the Williams Criminal Proceedings, the Court, by Order dated June 9, 2021, appointed attorney Leslie Perlow to represent Ms. Williams in the Criminal Proceedings

SPECIFIC RULE VIOLATIONS

23. By his conduct, as set forth in paragraphs 6 through 22 *supra*, Respondent admits that he violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct:

(a) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.7(a)(2), which provides, in pertinent part, that "a lawyer shall not represent a client if the

representation involves a concurrent conflict of interest. A concurrent conflict of interest exists if there is a significant risk that the representation of one or more clients will be materially limited...by a personal interest of the lawyer”;

(b) Rule of Professional Conduct 3.4(c), which provides, in pertinent part, that “[a] lawyer shall not, when appearing before a tribunal, assert the lawyer’s opinion as to the justness of a cause, as to the credibility of a witness,...or as to the guilt or innocence of an accused”;

(c) Rule of Professional Conduct 3.5(d), which provides that “[a] lawyer shall not engage in conduct intended to disrupt a tribunal”; and

(d) Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4(d), which provides that “[i]t is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice.”

SPECIFIC JOINT RECOMMENDATION FOR DISCIPLINE

24. Petitioner and Respondent jointly recommend that the appropriate discipline for Respondent's admitted misconduct is a public reprimand.

25. Respondent hereby consents to that discipline being imposed upon him. Attached to this Petition as Exhibit A is Respondent's executed Affidavit, required by Rule 215(d), Pa.R.D.E., stating that he consents to the imposition of a public reprimand and setting forth the mandatory acknowledgements contained in Rule 215(d)(1)-(4), Pa.R.D.E.

26. In aggravation, Respondent has a history of discipline. By Order dated January 17, 1997, which was retroactive to May 27, 1994, Respondent was disbarred as a result of his criminal conviction for obstruction of administration of law or other governmental function, unsworn falsification to authorities and tampering with public records or other information. Respondent was subsequently reinstated by Order dated April 16, 2010.

27. In mitigation, Respondent has accepted responsibility for his misconduct by virtue of his consent herein to the imposition of a public reprimand. In fact, the day after the proceeding set forth in paragraphs 16-22 *supra*, Respondent apologized publicly to his client and the Court. See Exhibit B (“I was wrong to not represent Ms. Williams only because of something that happened between me and another officer of the court,” Raiford said.”)

28. Respondent’s conduct in the Williams Criminal Proceedings stemmed from the public revelation a week earlier that Allegheny County

District Attorney Stephen A. Zappala, Jr., had instructed his staff not to extend any plea offers to Respondent's clients without special front office approval, in retaliation for Respondent's criticism of the District Attorney's office for its failure to address the issue of systemic racism in the Allegheny County criminal justice system. While this does not justify Respondent's failure to discharge his responsibilities to his client and the Court, it explains and mitigates his misconduct.

29. Additionally, if this matter were to proceed to a disciplinary hearing, Respondent would testify in mitigation that:

(a) he issued a complete refund of Ms. Williams' legal fees on or about June 21, 2021;

(b) he regularly provides free legal services to criminal defendants;

(c) he routinely gives food to homeless individuals;

(d) he frequently hosts approximately seventy-five (75) underprivileged youth and their families at his home, where he offers food, shelter, comfort and Bible studies; and

(e) he operates UMU Ministries through which he operates a tent in his own back yard where he donates food and money to people living in poverty.

30. Respondent would also present the testimony of attorney Turahn Jenkins regarding Respondent's character. Mr. Jenkins has been admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania since 2005. Mr. Jenkins' testimony would be substantially similar to the letter attached hereto as Exhibit C.

31. Public reprimands have previously been imposed for conflicts of interest when combined with other misconduct, *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Cynthia A. Baldwin*, 151 DB 2017 (no history of discipline), as well as for a contempt citation for failure to appear as counsel in a criminal matter, *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Carlos A. Martir, Jr.*, 22 DB 2016 (history of discipline consisting of two informal admonitions and one private reprimand).

WHEREFORE, Petitioner and Respondent respectfully request that:

(a) Pursuant to Rule 215(e) and 215(g), Pa.R.D.E., a three-member Panel of the Disciplinary Board review and approve the above Joint Petition in Support Of Discipline On Consent and the Disciplinary Board enter an Order providing that Respondent be subjected to a Public Reprimand; and

(b) Pursuant to Rule 215(i), Pa.R.D.E. a three-member Panel of the Disciplinary Board enter an order for Respondent to pay

the necessary expenses incurred in the investigation and prosecution of this matter, and that all expenses be paid by Respondent within thirty (30) days after the notice of taxed expenses is sent to Respondent.

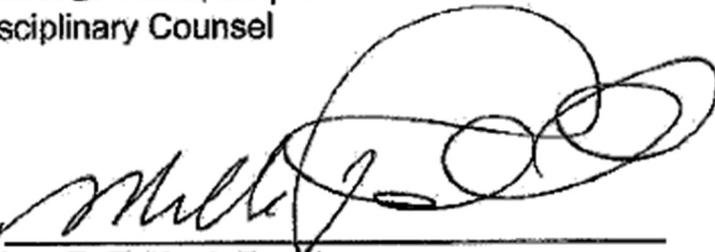
Respectfully and jointly submitted,

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

THOMAS J. FARRELL
CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

By 

Daniel S. White, Esquire
Disciplinary Counsel

By 

Milton E. Raiford, Esquire
Respondent

VERIFICATION

The statements contained in the forgoing Joint Petition in Support Of Discipline On Consent 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. § 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

3/10/22

Date



Daniel S. White, Esquire
Disciplinary Counsel

3-9-22

Date



Milton E. Raiford, Esquire
Respondent

EXHIBIT A

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, :
Petitioner : No. DB
 :
v. :
 : Attorney Registration No. 49055
MILTON E. RAIFORD, :
Respondent : (Allegheny County)

AFFIDAVIT

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

MILTON E. RAIFORD, being duly sworn according to law, deposes and hereby submits this affidavit consenting to the recommendation of a public reprimand in conformity with Rule 215(d), Pa.R.D.E. and further states as follows:

1. He is an attorney admitted in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, having been admitted to the bar on or about May 27, 1987.
2. He desires to submit a Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent Pursuant to Rule 215(d), Pa.R.D.E.
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 is presently pending an investigation regarding allegations that he has been guilty of misconduct, as set forth in the

Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent Pursuant to Rule 215(d), Pa.R.D.E., to which this affidavit is attached.

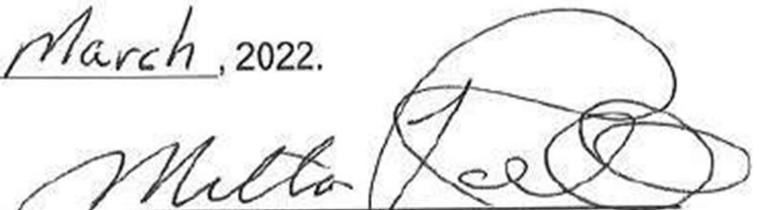
5. He acknowledges that the material facts set forth in the Joint Petition are true.

6. He submits the within affidavit because he knows that if charges predicated upon the matter under investigation were filed 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 not retained, consulted or 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. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

Signed this 9th day of March, 2022.


MILTON E. RAIFORD

Sworn to and subscribed
before me this 9 day
of March, 2022.



Notary Public

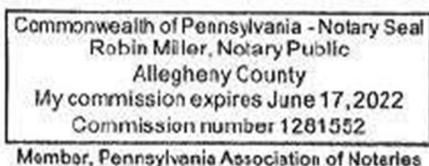


EXHIBIT B

TRIBLIVE^(L)

🔗 | [Back \(https://triblive.com/local/attorney-milton-raiford-apologizes-for-leaving-clients-case-during-zappala-dispute-seeks-to-be-restored/\)](https://triblive.com/local/attorney-milton-raiford-apologizes-for-leaving-clients-case-during-zappala-dispute-seeks-to-be-restored/) | Text Size: - +

<https://triblive.com/local/attorney-milton-raiford-apologizes-for-leaving-clients-case-during-zappala-dispute-seeks-to-be-restored/>

Attorney Milton Raiford apologizes for leaving client's case during Zappala dispute; seeks to be restored



PAULA REED WARD | Thursday, June 10, 2021 5:16 p.m.



PAULA REED WARD | TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Attorney Milton Raiford

A day after Milton Raiford, who is embroiled in a public dispute with Allegheny County District Attorney Stephen A. Zappala Jr., refused to represent his client in court, the defense attorney changed his mind.

On Thursday, Raiford asked the court if he could return to Vanessa Williams' case — telling Common Pleas Judge Anthony M. Mariani that he had worked out a plea with the DA's office.

"I was wrong to not represent Ms. Williams only because of something that happened between me and another officer of the court," Raiford said. "You asked me to reconsider, and I did."

Mariani said it was too late.

"Your time for reconsideration is gone," the judge responded. "How can I accept your representation when you said no deals are fair. How in the world can I accept that with what you've done?"

Later, he added, "You abandoned your client yesterday."

On Wednesday, Williams was scheduled for a nonjury trial on charges of aggravated assault by vehicle while driving under the influence. However, when Mariani called the case, Raiford refused to participate. Instead, he spoke for several minutes about God, racism and cronyism in the courts.

Raiford, who is Black, called the courthouse a "cesspool of white privilege."

His comments were in response to a May 18 email written by Zappala to all of the deputy district attorneys in his office in which he ordered them to no longer offer any plea deals to Raiford or his clients, all following statements the defense attorney made five days earlier in which he called the DA's office "systematically racist."

First reported by the Tribune-Review, the email was called unethical by legal experts and prompted community leaders and elected officials to call for a state Supreme Court Disciplinary Board hearing into Zappala's actions. During Wednesday's court proceedings, the chief counsel for that office was present.

On Sunday, Zappala issued a new policy, which his office said rescinded the one previously outlined in the May 18 email.

Still, on Wednesday, Raiford went after the DA's office, and at the conclusion of the hearing, Mariani ordered him off Williams' case.

"Yesterday's performance, whatever that was, cast doubt on your ability to take on that case," Mariani said Thursday. "You went after the DA's office, members of this court.

"The consequences of this are that you can no longer be on this case."

Mariani appointed Chief Public Defender Matt Dugan to represent Williams. On Thursday, Dugan told the court Williams still wants Raiford as her attorney. Deputy District Attorney Melissa Hong-Barco said that she believed Williams has a right to have the counsel of her choice on the case.

Williams has not commented about the matter.

Mariani told the parties to write a brief on the issue, and scheduled a status conference for later this month.

Raiford apologized for his actions during the previous day's hearing. He said that his statements then would be the last he would make involving a client.

"That's all the calling out of names I'm going to do," he said. "I don't need an apology from Mr. Zappala. I don't need an apology to forgive him."

Referring to his actions Wednesday and invoking Martin Luther King Jr., Raiford said. "Every once in a while, you have to violate policies that you think are unjust and be willing to accept the consequences."

He also expressed remorse for the victim in Williams' case, who will now have to return to court again to see the case reach conclusion.

"My client is contrite, sorry," he said.

Raiford told Mariani that when he saw the email authored by Zappala, he cried. But, he continued, "I think it's not right for me to impugn everyone at the DA's office. It was not issued by them."

Moving forward, Mariani said that he plans to address all of Raiford's clients who come before him to ensure they know about the dispute between Raiford and Zappala.

"You made an assault on the entire DA's office. Those clients have a right to be heard whether they want to proceed with you as their attorney," the judge said.

Making good on his word, a short time later in a separate case with an incarcerated defendant, Mariani asked the man who is represented by Raiford if he knew about the situation. The man said he was not aware of it. The judge ordered a pre-sentence report in that case and continued it for 90 days.

During his exchange with Raiford, Mariani read from an anonymous letter he said he received in response to the situation with Zappala.

"Didn't we do this before?" it read. "Don't ask why Black people are angry. Ask why they haven't burned down the courts already."

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EXHIBIT C

Turah Jenkins

I don't believe in chance encounters, and I believe that everyone we meet in life has a purpose. Some good and some not so good. Whatever the purpose, you can always glean wisdom and understanding.

I've known the name "Milton Raiford" since my teenage years. I knew he was a black criminal defense attorney in Pittsburgh, but I didn't know who he was in person. I didn't know any attorneys, let alone any black attorneys back then. All I knew was he was very popular and highly sought after. He was a legend and was very prominent in the legal community.

Fast forward many years later, I follow the path that God lead me to and I find myself with a law degree and up in the mix. I had the pleasure of meeting the man I had heard so much about, but my eyes had never seen. The first time we met, it was all love. I was honored to meet him. He was an O.G. in the game. Whenever we would see one another in the hallways of the courthouse, it was always love and mutual respect. He was full of love and always spoke life and encouragement. I appreciated that about him.

Fast forward several years later, my wife and I moved to Churchill. Coincidentally, we move on the same street as Brother Milt. There are 4 houses that separate us. Living in close proximity, our bond strengthened and I got to know the man, not just the lawyer. It's been a blessing for which I thank God for, and one I don't take for granted. He has become more than a colleague. He's been a mentor and a friend.

This work is so much bigger than putting a suit on and going to court everyday. This work for me is a form of ministry. It is so much bigger than a law degree. Sure, I'm a lawyer, but I believe my purpose is bigger than this to maximize my gifts and God given talents. I use my law degree to touch as many lives as I can with the time that I have, and to give people hope through love and compassion in a system that tends to prey on the poor and marginalized communities. Sometimes I think I might care too much, but Brother Milt is my reminder that that is why we do this work because he approaches it with the same level of care and empathy. I know that I will eventually transition into spaces beyond the courtroom, and I will be called to do more to be more impactful to the community through speaking and teaching for a broader reach to effectuate change. I understand my assignment.

Brother Milt keeps me grounded and has been a listening ear when I have tough days. And I have had a lot of them, especially over the last couple of years. He's been on this road much longer than I have and has fought these battles many times before. We've sat on his porch,

swapped stories and prayed together. He and my son have a special bond, and I enjoy watching him chase my son up and down the street. He understands what it's like to work in a system where you're fighting for justice where injustice and often times evil seem to thrive. As a believer, it's difficult to traverse these spaces and maintain the faith. He constantly reminds me not to let my heart turn bitter in the face of blatant wrongs and inequities. I struggle with that, and it's something that I work on daily.

Brother Milt, I'm giving you your props that you deserve. You have stood in the gap for so many people. You are a leader. You are a man of faith. You are a man of courage. I have the utmost love and respect for you. You step up and speak out to address wrongs. You are a bridge between the community and the power structure. You are a light in a dark place. You have taught me more than you realize in these last couple years. More importantly, I'm telling you now while we both share this moment in time. I told myself in 2022, I'm going to be very intentional in giving people their flowers while they are here to enjoy them. Anybody that knows me well knows that I don't shy away from telling you how I feel about things. If you ask me an honest question, be prepared for an honest answer. I thank you for all that you have deposited in me, and I hope to take all that you've given me and investing it into someone else that comes down the pike after me. Each one teach one.

I recognize now more than ever the reason for our paths crossing. God sent you to me to remind me of who I am, just as importantly who I'm not, and to stand up for the community when other voices fall silent. Life is a slice of eternity measured by time. We all have a finite portion. I recognize my responsibility and I thank you for taking your time to share your wisdom and guidance.

I love you, brother!

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL,:

Petitioner : No. DB 2022

v. :

MILTON E. RAIFORD, :

Respondent : (Allegheny County)

: Attorney Registration No. 49055

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:

Milton E. Raiford, Esquire
3301 Longbow Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15235

(miltonraiford@gmail.com)



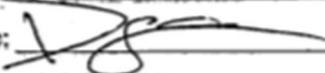
Dated: 3/10/22

Daniel S. White
Disciplinary Counsel
Attorney Registration No. 322574
Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Frick Building, Suite 1300
437 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
(412) 565-3173

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: Daniel S. White

Attorney No. (if applicable): 322574