

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

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL	:	No. 5 DB 2016
Petitioner	:	
v.	:	File No. C1-14-653
	:	
ROBERT J. DIXON	:	Attorney Registration No. 18011
	:	
Respondent	:	(Philadelphia)

**PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

Robert J. Dixon, 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. Dixon, you are being reprimanded today for your conduct in connection with your representation of Mary Lee. Ms. Lee and her husband filed a lawsuit against John J. McMahon, Jr., Esquire in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas on May 12, 2009. Following a bench trial, the Court awarded Ms. Lee \$10,000. Mr. McMahon appealed the award to the Superior Court. By Order of June 27, 2011, the Superior Court quashed the appeal because a final judgment had not been entered based on the trial court's November 30, 2010 Order. The Lees were represented by Vincent L. Johnson, currently a judge on the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. Upon his election, Judge Johnson referred the matter to you.

On June 25, 2104, you filed a Praeipce to Record Judgment and a Praeipce for Writ of Execution against Mr. McMahon. You failed to request that Mr. McMahon be required to pay post-judgment interest on the \$10,000 award, and you failed to obtain Ms. Lee's consent to forego recovering post-judgment interest from Mr. McMahon. Sometime thereafter, you received from Mr. McMahon a \$10,000 check in satisfaction of the award. In late June or July 2014, you contacted the Lees and told them that you had received the check and that \$5,000 from the \$10,000 had to be paid to Judge Johnson to satisfy his fee for services rendered. Ms. Lee disputed Judge Johnson's entitlement to \$5,000. Ms. Lee called you from time to time and left messages inquiring as to when she would receive the \$10,000. You failed to return these messages. Ms. Lee also contacted you by letter. Ms. Lee subsequently filed a disciplinary complaint against you with Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

Ms. Lee has not received any portion of her award, despite her contacts with you to ascertain when she could expect her monies. While the record demonstrated that there is an ongoing fee dispute between Ms. Lee and Judge Johnson, you failed to distribute to Ms. Lee the undisputed portion of her award while the dispute remains unresolved. You were advised to do so by Disciplinary Counsel, yet you failed to heed this advice.

On June 8, 2015, Office of Disciplinary Counsel sent you a DB-7 letter of allegations and requested your response. You failed to respond and failed to provide good cause.

Your conduct in this matter has violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct and Rule of Disciplinary Enforcement:

1. RPC 1.2(a) – A lawyer shall abide by a client's decision concerning the objectives of representation and, as required by Rule 1.4, shall consult with the client as to the means by which they are to be pursued.
2. RPC 1.3 – A lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client.
3. RPC 1.4(a)(4) – A lawyer shall promptly comply with reasonable requests for information.
4. RPC 1.4(b) – A lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation.
5. RPC 1.15(e) – A lawyer shall promptly deliver to the client or third person any property, including but not limited to Rule 1.15 Funds, that the client or third person is entitled to receive and, upon request by the client or third person, shall promptly render a full accounting regarding the property; Provided, however, that the delivery, accounting and disclosure of Fiduciary Funds or property shall continue to be governed by the law, procedure and rules governing the requirements of Fiduciary administration, confidentiality, notice and accounting applicable to the Fiduciary entrustment.
6. RPC 1.16(d) – 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.


7. Pa.R.D.E. 203(b)(7) – Failure by a respondent-attorney without good cause to respond to Disciplinary Counsel's request or supplemental request for a statement of the respondent-attorney's position.

We note that you have been subject to professional discipline in the past. In 2008, you received an Informal Admonition. In 2015, you were administered a Private Reprimand. Your record of discipline serves as an aggravating factor and supports the imposition of a Public Reprimand in this matter.

Mr. Dixon, 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.

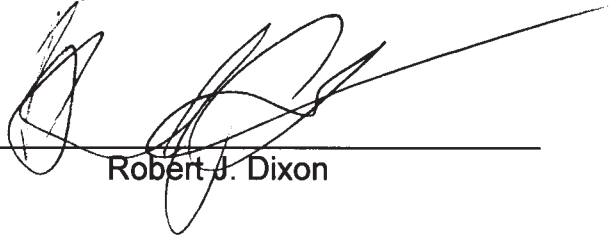
This Public Reprimand shall be posted on the Disciplinary Board's website at [www.padisciplinaryboard.org](http://www.padisciplinaryboard.org).

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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 14, 2016.

**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 1601 Market Street, Suite 3320, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on April 14, 2016.



---

Robert J. Dixon