

DISCIPLINARY AND ACTIONS AFFECTING ATTORNEYS
(FY 2016)

ARBAUGH, Eugene Arthur, Jr. – Commission Reprimand for his criminal conduct involving assault in the second degree, for which Respondent was placed on probation for three (3) years.

BABER, Gilbert – Disbarred on October 19, 2015, for having made a series of misrepresentations over a period of two (2) years in pleadings, verbal statements to his client and submissions to the District of Columbia Bar Counsel.

BENNETT, Brian Douglas – Commission Reprimand for challenging opposing counsel to a physical altercation during a court proceeding. Respondent has written letters of apology to the court, opposing counsel and the complainant.

BLYTHE, Angela M. – Interim Suspension by Consent on February 6, 2016, for her criminal conviction involving conspiracy to defraud financial institutions, bank fraud and making false statements to financial institutions. Respondent has appealed the conviction.

BRIGGS, Ronald L., Jr. – Disbarred by Consent on December 16, 2015, effective thirty (30) days from the date thereof, for failing to represent a client with reasonable diligence, for failing to communicate, for failing to maintain unearned fees in trust and for engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

BROWN, Takisha Vera – Disbarred on November 19, 2015 for intentionally misappropriating client trust funds and for making misrepresentations to Bar Counsel.

BROWN, Warren Anthony – Commission Reprimand for failing to provide competent, diligent and prompt representation to his client by failing timely to retain an expert to evaluate his client and by failing to adequately communicate with his client prior to the sentencing to garner evidence of mitigation to be presented to the court.

COHEN, Nancy A. – Reprimand by Consent on November 18, 2015, for representing a client in a lawsuit against a former client in the same or substantially related matter.

CONTE, Anthony Stephen – Commission Reprimand for failing to timely respond to several requests for information from Bar Counsel.

COONEY, Bernard J. – Commission Reprimand for failing to maintain unearned fees in trust.

DJORDJEVICH, Alexander - Indefinite Suspension by Consent on September 17, 2015 (with the right to apply for reinstatement nine (9) months after the date thereof and conditioned upon his reinstatement in the District of Columbia) for failing to provide competent, diligent and prompt representation to his clients, for failing to communicate, for failing to timely return unearned fees and surrender papers after his representation was terminated and for having knowingly disobeyed an obligation under the rules of a tribunal.

FLYNN, Maria Rebecca – Indefinite Suspension by Consent on August 14, 2015, for failing to provide competent, diligent and prompt representation to her clients, for failing to keep her clients informed, for failing to properly maintain an attorney trust account, for charging unreasonable fees, for failing to refund unearned fees, for failing to keep clients adequately informed and for making misrepresentations to Bar Counsel.

GALBRAITH, Mark R. – Disbarred on December 16, 2015, as a reciprocal action to his Virginia and District of Columbia discipline, for misappropriating clients' funds from his trust account and for failing to safe keep property of clients or third persons.

GIGOT, Matthew Randall – Disbarred by Consent on January 26, 2016, for his criminal conviction related to his possession or transmittal of depiction of a sexual performance by a minor.

GLESSNER, Stephen Anthony – Commission Reprimand for failing to provide competent, diligent and prompt representation to his client, for failing to obtain the client's informed consent, confirmed in writing, to deposit an unearned fee paid in advance into an account that was not a client trust account, for commingling client funds in his operating account and for failing to ensure that the firm had in effect measures giving reasonable assurance that all lawyers in the firm handled payments of legal fees in compliance with the rule.

GOLDSTEIN, Gary A. – Commission Reprimand for failing to disclose discovery information to which the opposing party was entitled.

GOOD, Tamara Renee – Disbarred on November, 6, 2015, by Per Curiam order for failing to perform legal services for her clients after accepting a retainer, for ignoring her clients' requests for information, for abandoning her representation of the clients without notice and for refusing to respond to Bar Counsel's requests for information. Opinion issued December 21, 2015.

GRAY, Melissa Donnelle – Disbarred July 27, 2015, for failing to deposit client funds in an attorney trust account, for failing to prepare for trial, for failing to keep her clients adequately informed, for charging an unreasonable fee and for failing to return unearned fees after she abandoned her clients.

GROSS, Ronald James – Indefinite Suspension on November 20, 2015 (with the right to apply for reinstatement conditioned upon being reinstated in the state of Pennsylvania) for misrepresenting the status of a contested will to a client and for making a false representation to the Pennsylvania Bar Counsel.

GUMMERE, Richard Morris – Disbarment by Consent on January 29, 2016, for misrepresenting to witnesses and his clients' co-defendants that he was an investigator and for engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

HALTER, Michael James – Commission Reprimand for making false and misleading statements with reckless disregard for the truth on his Facebook page concerning the qualifications and/or integrity of a State's Attorney.

KILLIAN, Walter H. – Disbarred by Consent on July 10, 2015, for failing to render a full accounting upon request by the client or third person and for engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice.

KLASS, Michelle E. – Commission Reprimand as a reciprocal action to her reprimand by the District of Columbia for commingling an advanced fee with her operating funds and for failing to maintain complete records of trust account funds.

LANDEO, Jennifer Vetter – Indefinite Suspension on February 19, 2016, effective thirty (30) days from the date thereof (with the right to apply for reinstatement ninety (90) days after the effective date) for failing to provide competent and diligent representation to her clients, for failing to keep clients reasonably informed about the status of their matters, for failing to deposit and maintain unearned fees in a trust account and for charging unreasonable fees.

LANGE, Kathryn Anne – Disbarred by Consent on August 21, 2015, for failing to safe keep property of clients or third persons, for misappropriating funds from a deceased client's estate trust account, for making false statements of material fact to the Orphan's Court and for engaging in misconduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

LEWIS, Alec Michael – Commission Reprimand for failing to maintain unearned fees in a client trust account, for failing to obtain the client's consent to deposit an unearned fee into an account that was not a client trust account and for failing to timely return unearned fees.

LINDNER, Don Franklin – Disbarred by Consent on September 24, 2015, for his criminal conviction related to filing false federal tax returns for tax years 2007 – 2011.

MEIER, Mike – Commission Reprimand, as a reciprocal action to his Virginia sanction, for lack of candor to a tribunal and for violating or attempting to violate the Maryland Lawyers’ Rules of Professional Conduct.

MITCHELL, Michael B., Jr. – Disbarred on September 29, 2015 for failing to provide competent and diligent representation to a client in two matters and for engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, deceit and/or misrepresentation.

MOORE, Leland C., Jr. – Commission Reprimand for filing a complaint in a jurisdiction that was related to a case already filed in another jurisdiction, for raising issues that were frivolous and for using means that had no substantial purpose except to embarrass, delay or burden the opposing party.

MOORE, Richard Wells, Sr. – Commission Reprimand for failing to provide competent and diligent representation to a client, for failing to keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the matter, for failing to timely file a required pleading with the court and for failing to return an unearned fee.

NGARURI, Melissa K. (aka Kenney, Melissa N.) 30-day suspension for holding herself out as being admitted to the Maryland Bar, while residing in Oregon, after she applied for and was granted “inactive status” with the Maryland Client Protection Fund of the Bar of Maryland.

NJOGU, Regina Wanjiru – Indefinite Suspension by Consent on October 27, 2015, for causing her client, who was not fluent in English, to sign an application for a title to a vehicle which Respondent intended to use as her own, for causing the client to add the vehicle to the client’s insurance policy, for the negative impact on the client’s vehicle registration due to accidents and traffic citations incurred by Respondent, which were attributed to the client.

NKWENTI, Theodore Nsoh – Indefinite Suspension by Consent on October 20, 2015, effective forty-five (45) days from the date thereof (with the right to apply for reinstatement six (6) months after the effective date) for hiring a former attorney who was not licensed to practice law in Maryland, for failing to enter into an employment agreement with the former attorney and filing notice of said employment with the Office of Bar Counsel, for failing to properly supervise the former attorney by allowing him to render legal advice to a client, for charging an unreasonable fee and for failing to deposit and maintain the client’s funds in trust until earned, without the client’s written informed consent.

OH-Kang, Seung – Disbarred on October 19, 2015, as a reciprocal action to the revocation of her license to practice law in Virginia on June 25, 2013, for her criminal conviction involving money

laundering and bank fraud and for conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

PAVLICK, Richard Mark – Indefinite Suspension by Consent on August 31, 2015, effective September 30, 2015, for failing to safe keep property of clients or third persons, for failing to maintain adequate trust account records, for commingling funds and for having a negative balance in his attorney trust account.

RAND, Charles Stephen – Indefinite Suspension on December 22, 2015, for failing to keep his client informed, for asserting an invalid retaining lien and for failing to comply with requests for information from Bar Counsel.

RAND, Charles Stephen – Indefinite Suspension by Consent on February 4, 2016, for failing to promptly inform his client of any decision or circumstance with respect to which the client's informed consent was required and for conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice.

RASNIC, Joseph Wheeler – Disbarred by Consent on February 16, 2016, as a reciprocal action to the revocation of his license to practice law in Virginia for his criminal conviction related to misprision of a felony.

RAY, Jeffrey G. – Commission Reprimand for failing to notify a third party medical provider, upon receipt of funds in which the medical provider had a potential interest, for failing to hold the funds in trust until the medical provider's interests could be determined and for failing to pay all that was owed to the provider.

REYES, Arcadio Jorge – Disbarred by Consent on July 10, 2015, for failing to safe keep property of clients or third persons and for failing to deposit unearned fees into an attorney trust account until earned.

SANDS, April Juanita – Indefinite Suspension by Consent on January 5, 2016, for violating the Hatch Act on numerous occasions while working for the Federal Election Commission by soliciting political contributions.

SCOTT, Lloyd Faulkner – Disbarred by Consent on August 10, 2015, for his conflict of interest relating to his representation of parties without informed consent, confirmed in writing, for failing to safe keep property of clients or third persons, for misuse of trust funds, for failing to pay medical care providers in a timely manner, for using an attorney trust account for personal expenses, for failing to maintain adequate trust account records and for failing to appear for one or more court dates.

SHAPIRO, Eugene A. – Disbarred by Consent on November 3, 2015, for failing to provide adequate representation to a client in three legal matters, for failing to keep the client reasonably informed, for repeatedly misleading and lying to her about the status of the matters and for knowingly making false statements of material fact to Bar Counsel.

SHEPHARD, Tawana D. – Disbarred on August 6, 2015, for engaging in the unauthorized practice of law, for her role as Managing Attorney of the law firm at which she was employed, for failing to provide competent and diligent representation to a client, for failing to communicate, for failing to earn attorney’s fees, for failing to safe keep property of clients or third persons and for failing to manage the firm’s trust account.

STORCH, Patricia DuVall – Indefinite Suspension on October 19, 2015, for her conduct as the Personal Representative of an estate. She failed to make timely filings, failed to attend hearings, and upon termination as the personal representative, she repeatedly failed to comply with court orders to turn over all estate property to the successor personal representative.

THOMAS, C. Trent – Disbarred on November 10, 2015, for abandoning his clients in two unrelated cases and for dishonestly refraining from informing Bar Counsel that he had violated his conditional diversion agreement.

STRACHAN, Laura Hawkins – Indefinite Suspension by Consent on February 22, 2016, for engaging in the unauthorized practice of law while on inactive status, for testifying inaccurately at a deposition, for failing to report income on her tax return and for making a misrepresentation to Bar Counsel.

TRYE, Shauntesse Curry – Disbarred on July 27, 2015, for making intentional material misrepresentations on a loan modification application, for making false representations to opposing counsel, for fraudulently altering a negotiated draft settlement agreement and consent order before providing them to opposing party and counsel.

WETZEL, John Clarence – Commission Reprimand for conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice, because he may have negligently or accidentally downloaded inappropriate images on his office computer.

WHITTLE, Arthur John – Reprimand by Consent for failing to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of the case and for failing to cooperate with Bar Counsel’s investigation.

WILLIAMS, Garrett Vincent – Disbarred on December 3, 2015, for concealing his incompetence and lack of diligence and for his wrongful conduct during the discovery process during his client’s case that resulted in the dismissal of the client’s claim.

WILLIAMS, Stephen Jerome – Commission Reprimand for failing to accurately list all of his client’s assets on Bankruptcy Schedules, for falsely representing to the court that he was in possession of supporting documents and, upon termination of his representation, for failing to timely surrender papers and property to which the client was entitled and for contacting the former client without consent, after the former client retained new counsel.

YOUNG, Matthew Richard – Disbarred on October 20, 2015, for entering into contracts to perform work on homes of individuals without a valid home improvement license, for misrepresenting to several parties that he had a valid license, or was operating under his brother’s license and for filing frivolous lawsuits.