

Disciplinary Case Summaries

No. 19PDJ051. People v. Burton. 10/3/2019. The Presiding Disciplinary Judge approved a conditional admission of misconduct and imposed reciprocal discipline, publicly censuring John S. Burton (attorney registration number 12188), effective October 3, 2019.

This reciprocal discipline case arose out of discipline imposed upon Burton in Arizona in March 2019. Burton was publicly reprimanded and placed on 18 months' probation for charging

a client an unreasonable fee and failing to deposit an advanced fee payment into his trust account.

Burton's misconduct constituted grounds for reciprocal discipline under CRCP 251.5 and 251.21.

The case file is public per CRCP 251.31.

No. 19PDJ052. People v. Palmer. 9/12/2019. The Presiding Disciplinary Judge granted a

motion for entry of default and imposed reciprocal discipline, disbaring Joseph Darrell Palmer (attorney registration number 23601) from the practice of law in Colorado, effective October 17, 2019.

This reciprocal discipline case arose out of discipline imposed upon Palmer in California. In June 2016, the State entered an order of discipline suspending Palmer for a period of two years, all but 90 days stayed pending successful completion of two years of probation. Palmer was disciplined for executing and filing false affidavits in federal class actions. In July 2017, Palmer was again suspended until he furnished proof of passing the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination, which was a condition of his probation in the prior suspension proceeding. The Supreme Court of California entered an order disbaring respondent from the practice of law in California on June 24, 2019, for failure to comply with the terms of probation in the two prior disciplinary cases.

Palmer's misconduct constituted grounds for reciprocal discipline under CRCP 251.5 and 251.21.

The case file is public per CRCP 251.31.

No. 19PDJ025. People v. Sokolow. 9/10/2019. Following a sanctions hearing, the Presiding Disciplinary Judge suspended Anthony Litt Sokolow (attorney registration number 10312) for one year and one day, effective October 15, 2019. Sokolow is required to formally petition for reinstatement and prove by clear and convincing evidence that he has been rehabilitated, has complied with disciplinary orders and rules, and is fit to practice law.

Although Sokolow submitted the appropriate paperwork to appeal the denial of his client's social security disability claim, he did not

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seek to expedite the appeal, even though his client may have been granted an expedited hearing due to the imminent foreclosure on her house. Sokolow also repeatedly failed to respond to his client's numerous attempts to communicate about the status of her appeal for months at a time. Through this misconduct, Sokolow violated Colo. RPC 1.3 (a lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness when representing a client); Colo. RPC 1.4(a) (a lawyer shall reasonably communicate with the client); and Colo. RPC 1.4(b) (a lawyer shall explain a matter so as to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation).

The case file is public per CRCP 251.31. 

These summaries of disciplinary case opinions and conditional admissions of misconduct are prepared by the Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge and are provided as a service by the CBA; the CBA cannot guarantee their accuracy or completeness. Full opinions are available on the Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge website at www.coloradosupremecourt.com/PDJ/PDJ_Decisions.asp.

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