

THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

In re:

Complaint Against:

Board No. 15 - 049

Steven Bruce Beranek
P.O. Box 601
Medina, OH 44258

Attorney Reg. No. 0066847

COMPLAINT AND CERTIFICATE

Respondent,

(Rule V of the Supreme Court Rules for
The Government of the Bar of Ohio)

Medina County Bar Association
93 Public Square
Medina, OH 44256

RECEIVED

JUL 31 2015

Relator.

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Now comes Relator and alleges that Steven Bruce Beranek, an attorney at law, duly admitted to the practice of law in the State of Ohio, is guilty of the following misconduct.

COUNT 1

1. Steven Bruce Beranek is an attorney at law duly admitted in the State of Ohio to the practice of law on November 12, 1996.
2. On November 1, 2011, Respondent was suspended for attorney registration violations and reinstated on November 4, 2011.
3. Grievants, Stanley and Janine McAlpin, hired Respondent for general legal advice regarding the McAlpin's business operations and money owed from the operations. Respondent filed a civil lawsuit concerning monies owed to the Grievants by the companies.

4. Before trial, the defendant companies filed for bankruptcy protection. Respondent represented the Grievants in the bankruptcy cases as well.

5. Respondent refused without cause to respond to Grievants' numerous attempts to contact Respondent. Grievants finally tracked down Respondent. Respondent admitted that the breakdown in communication was his fault. Respondent further admitted that the lack of communication with the Grievants was unacceptable.

6. After the Grievants were finally able to contact Respondent, he has not communicated with the Grievants again for many months.

7. Respondent indicated that when the Grievants' matter started he was in an office in private practice with several other attorneys. However, as the case progressed, the office disbanded, his private practice declined and he was working from his home. Respondent also started other employment, becoming overburdened with work, responsibilities at home with the children and his private practice.

8. Respondent initially indicated to Relator that he had malpractice insurance coverage from working with another attorney. However, Respondent quickly changed his response and indicated that he had failed to tell the Grievants that he did not have insurance. Respondent did not have insurance at the time of his work with the Grievants. Respondent has since sent letters to at least some of his clients concerning malpractice insurance, but not to Grievants.

9. During Respondent's representation of the Grievants, Respondent violated the Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct by not adequately communicating with his clients and not informing his clients that he did not have malpractice insurance.

10. Respondent has violated Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 1.4:

Communication, in that:

(a) A lawyer shall do all of the following:

(4) comply as soon as practicable with
reasonable requests for information from the client;

and

(c) A lawyer shall inform a client at the time of the
client's engagement of the lawyer ... if the lawyer does not
maintain professional liability insurance

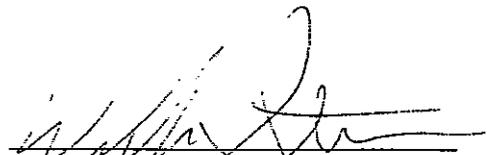
11. The Grievants have been irreparably harmed by the conduct of the Respondent.

WHEREFORE, pursuant to Gov. Bar Rule V and the Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct,
Relator alleges that Respondent is chargeable with misconduct, therefore Relator requests that
Respondent be disciplined.

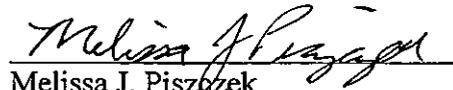
Respectfully submitted,



Patricia A. Walker
Ohio Bar No. 0001779
Medina County Bar Counsel
Attorney for Relator
Walker & Jocke Co., LPA
231 South Broadway
Medina, Ohio 44256
(Phone) 330-721-0000
(Fax) 330-722-6446
(e-mail) paw@walkerandjocke.com



William E. Steiger, II
Ohio Bar No. 0076935
Medina County Assistant Bar Counsel
Attorney for Relator
The Bailey Law Firm
60 Public Square
Medina, Ohio 44256
(Phone) 330-723-4140
(e-mail) wsteiger@sbaileylaw.com



Melissa J. Piszczek
Ohio Bar No. 0090184
Medina County Assistant Bar Counsel
Attorney for Relator
Gerald D. Piszczek Co., LPA
412 North Court Street
Medina, Ohio 44256
(Phone) 330-723-2200
(e-mail) piszczeklaw@yahoo.com

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned Chairman of the Certified Grievance Committee of the Medina County Bar Association hereby certifies that Patricia A. Walker, William E. Steiger, II and Melissa J. Piszczek are duly authorized to represent Relator in the premises and have accepted the responsibility to prosecute the Complaint to its conclusion. After investigation, Relator believes reasonable cause exists to warrant a hearing on such Complaint.

Dated: July 2, 2015


Michael L. Larabee, Chair
Medina County Bar Association
Certified Grievance Committee