

FILED

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT
OF
THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

APR 21 2016

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

In re:

Complaint against

Jeremiah Justin Denslow, Esq.
179 South Main Street
P.O. Box 493
Waynesville, Ohio 45068
Attorney Registration No. (0074784)

No. 16 - 014

Respondent,

COMPLAINT AND CERTIFICATE

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

Disciplinary Counsel
250 Civic Center Drive, Suite 325
Columbus, Ohio 43215-7411

Relator.

Now comes relator and alleges that Jeremiah Justin Denslow, an Attorney at Law, duly admitted to the practice of law in the state of Ohio, is guilty of the following misconduct:

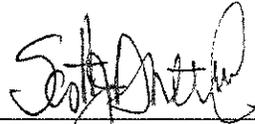
1. Respondent, Jeremiah Justin Denslow, was admitted to the practice of law in the state of Ohio on May 20, 2002. Respondent is subject to the Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct and the Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio.
2. At all times relevant to respondent's conduct in this proceeding, he was a partner in the law firm of Gounaris, Denslow, Abboud, LPA ("GDA law firm").
3. On March 30, 2015, Tristan Pernell hired respondent to file an appeal from a post-decree custody judgment that was filed on March 10, 2015 in the Auglaize County Domestic Relations Court.

4. On the same day, Pernell and respondent agreed that the attorney fee for the appellate representation would be a flat fee of \$7,500.00.
5. Pernell paid respondent \$5,000.00 of the \$7,500.00 flat fee and agreed that the remaining \$2,500.00 would be paid within a week of the initial hiring, i.e., no later than April 7, 2015.
6. The Notice of Appeal was due to be filed with the Third District Court of Appeals on or before April 9, 2015.
7. Respondent did not file the Notice of Appeal on Pernell's behalf.
8. Pernell did not pay the remaining balance of the flat fee.
9. In May 2015, respondent left the GDA law firm on a temporary leave of absence.
10. Respondent did not have any communication with Pernell between March 30, 2015 and his departure from the firm in May 2015.
11. Sometime after April 9, 2015, Pernell learned that respondent had not filed the Notice of Appeal.
12. On June 1, 2015, representatives of the GDA law firm met with Pernell and provided her with a refund of her \$5,000.00 flat fee payment.
13. On January 4, 2016, respondent replied to relator's letter of inquiry.
14. In his reply, respondent stated that his normal practice in a situation where a client pays part of the attorney fee, but then must pay the balance of the fee on a payment plan, is to wait for the remainder of the payment to be made before commencing work on the case.
15. In situations where time is a pressing issue, however, respondent stated that he would commence work on a case immediately upon receipt of the initial payment and simultaneously follow-up with the client for payment of her outstanding balance.

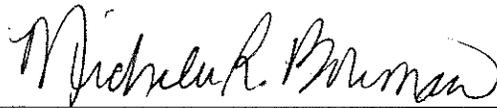
16. Respondent acknowledged that “he should have done that in this case” and that his “lack of action was a serious error.”
17. By failing to timely file a Notice of Appeal on behalf of his client, respondent’s conduct violated the Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct, specifically Prof. Cond. R 1.3 (requiring a lawyer to act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client).

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, pursuant to Gov. Bar R. V, the Code of Professional Responsibility and the Rules of Professional Conduct, relator alleges that respondent is chargeable with misconduct; therefore, relator requests that respondent be disciplined pursuant to Rule V of the Rules of the Government of the Bar of Ohio.



Scott J. Drexel (0091467)
Disciplinary Counsel

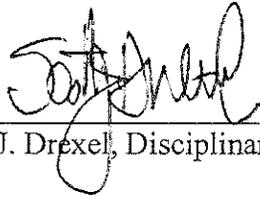


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CERTIFICATE

The undersigned, Scott J. Drexel, Disciplinary Counsel, of the Office of Disciplinary Counsel of the Supreme Court of Ohio hereby certifies that Michelle R. Bowman is duly authorized to represent relator in the premises and has accepted the responsibility of prosecuting the complaint to its conclusion. After investigation, relator believes reasonable cause exists to warrant a hearing on such complaint.

Dated: April 21, 2016



Scott J. Drexel, Disciplinary Counsel