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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT  
OF

THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

In re:

Complaint against

Angela Marie Whitt, Esq.  
Whitt Legal Services, LLC  
P.O. Box 171  
Grove City, OH 43123

No. 15 - 072

Attorney Registration No. (0081658)

COMPLAINT AND CERTIFICATE

Respondent,

(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

FILED

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Relator.

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

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

1. Respondent, Angela Marie Whitt, was admitted to the practice of law in the state of Ohio on May 14, 2007. Respondent is subject to the Rules of Professional Conduct and the Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio.
2. From October 2007 to May 2012, respondent was employed as the Office Manager for the Central Ohio Colon and Rectal Center ("COCRC"). As part of her duties and responsibilities, respondent occasionally provided legal services.
3. As the Office Manager, respondent had full access to the billing system, all of COCRC's financial records and bank accounts, credit card accounts, and each physician's personal identifying information.

4. After respondent terminated her employment in May 2012, it was discovered that she had misappropriated \$257,132.00 from the medical practice. While the majority of her misappropriation occurred during her employment, she continued to misappropriate funds even after she terminated her employment.
5. Respondent misappropriated the funds using credit cards belonging to two of the doctors, using the corporate credit card belonging to the medical practice, improperly disbursing cash from COCRC's checking account, and improperly reimbursing herself for unauthorized personal expenses.
6. The following table contains the various amounts of misappropriation according to the method employed:

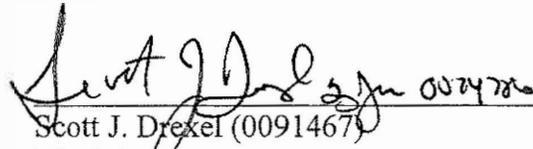
<b>Unauthorized Use of Credit Card Accounts</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Transactions on Dr. Giammar's credit card during respondent's employment	\$138,050.05
Transactions on Dr. Giammar's credit card after respondent's employment	\$20,079.01
Transactions on Dr. Kerner's credit card during respondent's employment	\$3,166.05
Transactions on Dr. Kerner's credit card after respondent's employment	\$266.63
Transactions on the corporate credit card during respondent's employment	\$63,645.26
<b>Unauthorized Disbursements from COCRC's checking account</b>	
Cash disbursements during respondent's employment	\$31,255.00
Expense reimbursements to Ms. Whitt	\$670.00
<b>Total Misappropriation by respondent</b>	<b>\$257,132.00</b>

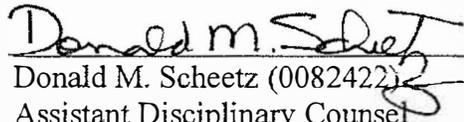
7. Respondent used the misappropriated funds to pay various personal expenses, including student loan payments, medical bills, utility bills, and retail purchases.
8. On March 24, 2015, respondent appeared before the Honorable Guy L. Reece in the Court of Common Pleas of Franklin County, Ohio.

9. On that day, respondent waived her right to an Indictment and agreed to proceed via a Bill of Information. Respondent pled guilty to one count of Aggravated Theft, as a felony of the third degree, in violation of R.C. 2913.02.
10. As part of her plea, respondent admitted that she knowingly exerted control over COCRC's funds by deception and with the purpose to deprive COCRC of those funds.
11. On June 11, 2015, respondent was sentenced to 180 days in the Franklin County correctional system, placed on Community Control for a period of three years, ordered to complete OLAP, and ordered to pay \$10,000 in restitution. COCRC had an insurance policy that covered the loss, and the restitution amount reimbursed the medical practice for the deductible it was forced to pay.
12. On July 22, 2015, respondent paid the \$10,000 in restitution.
13. On July 24, 2015, the Supreme Court of Ohio suspended respondent from the practice of law for an interim period pursuant to Gov. Bar. R. V(18)(A)(1) due to her felony conviction.
14. Respondent's conduct, as alleged in this complaint, violates the following provisions of the Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct: Prof. Cond. R. 8.4(b) [A lawyer shall not commit an illegal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty or trustworthiness]; Prof. Cond. R. 8.4(c) [a lawyer shall not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation]; and her conduct is sufficiently egregious to violate 8.4(h) [a lawyer shall not engage in any other conduct that adversely reflects on the lawyer's fitness to practice law].

## 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.

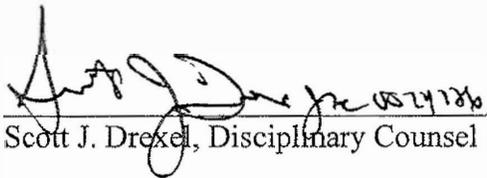
  
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**CERTIFICATE**

The undersigned, Scott J. Drexel, Disciplinary Counsel, of the Office of Disciplinary Counsel of the Supreme Court of Ohio hereby certifies that Donald M. Scheetz 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: November 30, 2015

  
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Scott J. Drexel, Disciplinary Counsel