

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL,	:	No. 3008 Disciplinary Docket No. 3
	:	
Petitioner	:	No. 140 DB 2023
	:	
v.	:	Attorney Registration No. 321416
	:	(Elk County)
CHRISTOPHER JOHN MARTINI,	:	
	:	
Respondent	:	

**ORDER**

**PER CURIAM**

**AND NOW**, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026, upon consideration of the Verified Statement of Resignation, Christopher John Martini is disbarred on consent from the Bar of this Commonwealth. See Pa.R.D.E. 215. Respondent shall comply with the provisions of Pa.R.D.E. 217 and pay costs to the Disciplinary Board. See Pa.R.D.E. 208(g).

A True Copy Nicole Traini  
As Of 04/27/2026

Attest:   
Chief Clerk  
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, : No. 3008 Disciplinary Docket  
: No. 3  
Petitioner :  
: No. 140 DB 2023  
vs. :  
: :  
CHRISTOPHER JOHN MARTINI, : Attorney Registration No. 321416  
: :  
Respondent : (Elk County)

RESIGNATION  
UNDER Pa.R.D.E. 215

Christopher John Martini, Esquire, hereby tenders his unconditional resignation from the practice of law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in conformity with Pa.R.D.E. 215 ("Enforcement Rules") and further states as follows:

1. He is an attorney admitted in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, having been admitted to the bar on or about November 2, 2015. His attorney registration number is 321416.
2. He was placed on temporary suspension by Order of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania dated October 20, 2023.
3. He desires to submit his resignation as a member of said bar.

**FILED**  
**04/13/2026**  
**The Disciplinary Board of the**  
**Supreme Court of Pennsylvania**

4. His resignation is freely and voluntarily rendered; he is not being subjected to coercion or duress and he is fully aware of the implications of submitting this resignation.

5. He acknowledges that he is fully aware of his right to consult and employ counsel to represent him in the instant proceeding. He has~~has not~~ retained, consulted with and acted upon the advice of counsel in connection with his decision to execute the within resignation.

6. He is aware that there is presently pending an investigation into allegations that he has been guilty of misconduct, the nature of which allegations have been made known to him by service of Office of Disciplinary Counsel's Petition for Emergency Temporary Suspension Order and Related Relief Pursuant to Rule 208(f)(1), Pa.R.D.E., filed on October 2, 2023, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto, made a part hereof and marked Exhibit "A".

7. He acknowledges that the material facts upon which the Petition for Emergency Temporary Suspension Order and Relief is predicated contained in Exhibit "A" are true.

8. He submits the within resignation because he knows that he could not successfully defend himself against the charges of professional misconduct set forth in the attached exhibit.

9. He is fully aware that the submission of this Resignation Statement is irrevocable and that he can only apply for reinstatement to the practice of law pursuant to the provisions of Enforcement Rule 218(b) and (c).

10. He is aware that pursuant to Enforcement Rule 215(c) the fact that he has tendered his resignation shall become a matter of public record immediately upon delivery of the resignation statement to Disciplinary Counsel or the Board Prothonotary.

11. Upon entry of the order disbaring him on consent, he will promptly comply with the notice, withdrawal, resignation, trust account, and cease-and-desist provisions of Enforcement Rule 217 (a), (b), (c) and (d).

12. After entry of the order disbaring him on consent, he will file a verified statement of compliance as required by Enforcement Rule 217(e) (1).

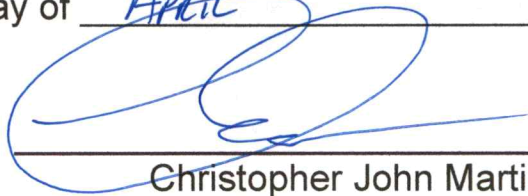
13. He is aware that the waiting period for eligibility to apply for reinstatement to the practice of law under Enforcement Rule 218(b) shall not begin until he files the verified statement of compliance required by Enforcement Rule 217(e)(1), and if the order of disbarment contains a provision that makes the disbarment retroactive to an earlier date, then the waiting period will be deemed to have begun on that earlier date.

14. He understands and is advised that the filing of the within Resignation statement terminates the temporary suspension proceedings filed at No. 3008 Disciplinary Docket No. 3.

15. He understands that the decision whether to grant retroactivity is solely within the discretion of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

It is understood that the statements made herein are subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S.A., Section 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

Signed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher John Martini

WITNESS: \_\_\_\_\_

THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD  
OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Thomas J. Farrell, Esquire  
Chief Disciplinary Counsel

Raymond S. Wierciszewski, Esquire  
Deputy Chief Disciplinary Counsel

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Disciplinary Counsel-In-Charge  
DI- Ramona Mariani  
DII- Harold E. Ciampoli, Jr.  
DIII- Krista K. Beatty  
DIV- James M. Fox  
Special Projects- Anthony P. Sodroski

October 02, 2023

CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL  
[www.padisciplinaryboard.org](http://www.padisciplinaryboard.org)

Prothonotary  
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania  
Western District Office  
801 City-County Building  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Attention: Betsy Ceraso, Esquire  
Deputy Prothonotary

Re: Office of Disciplinary Counsel v.  
CHRISTOPHER JOHN MARTINI  
Petition for Emergency Temporary  
Suspension Order and Related Relief  
Pursuant to Rule 208(f)(1), Pa.R.D.E.  
No. 140 DB 2023  
Attorney Registration No. 321416  
(Elk County)

Dear Ms. Ceraso:

Pursuant to Rule 104(c), Pa.R.D.E., please find Disciplinary Counsel's  
Petition for Emergency Temporary Suspension Order and Related Relief  
Pursuant to Rule 208(f)(1), Pa.R.D.E.

Additional copies are being served as indicated below.

Very truly yours,

Thomas J. Farrell  
Chief Disciplinary Counsel

TJF/rlw

Enclosures

cc: (w/encl.)

Marcee Sloan, Board Prothonotary

Christopher John Martini, Esquire

Raymond S. Wierciszewski, Deputy Chief Disciplinary Counsel

LaTammie D. Bivins, Disciplinary Counsel, District IV

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	:	No. 140 DB 2023
vs.	:	
	:	
CHRISTOPHER JOHN MARTINI,	:	Attorney Registration No. 321416
	:	
Respondent	:	(Elk County)

PETITION FOR EMERGENCY TEMPORARY  
SUSPENSION ORDER AND RELATED RELIEF  
PURSUANT TO RULE 208(f)(1), Pa.R.D.E.

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

THOMAS J. FARRELL  
CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

LaTammie D. Bivins  
Disciplinary Counsel  
The Disciplinary Board of the  
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania  
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Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
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PURSUANT TO RULE 208(f)(1), Pa.R.D.E.

To the Honorable Chief Justice and Justices of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania:

The Petitioner, Office of Disciplinary Counsel, by Thomas J. Farrell, Esquire, Chief Disciplinary Counsel, and LaTammie D. Bivins, Esquire, Disciplinary Counsel, pursuant to Rule 208(f)(1) of the Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement, comes and files this petition before Your Honorable Court and, in support thereof, respectfully represents that:

1. Petitioner, whose principal office is situated at Pennsylvania Judicial Center, Suite 2700, 601 Commonwealth Avenue, P.O. Box 62485, Harrisburg, PA, is invested, pursuant to Rule 207 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement, with the power and duty to investigate all matters involving alleged misconduct of an attorney admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and to prosecute all disciplinary proceedings brought in accordance with the various provisions of the aforesaid Rules.

2. Respondent, Christopher John Martini, was born in 1985. He was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on November 2, 2015. Respondent's attorney registration mailing address is 400 South Michael Road, Saint Marys, PA 15857.

NOW THEREFORE, it appearing to Petitioner that the continued practice of law by Respondent is causing immediate and substantial public or private harm in manifest violation of the Disciplinary Rules or the Enforcement Rules, and that conclusion having been concurred in by a reviewing member of the Disciplinary Board (as shown by an attachment hereto), the following is presented for consideration of Your Honorable Court:

3. On July 20, 2023 Respondent received a Public Reprimand for

misconduct in two separate matters:

(a) The first matter involved Respondent's representation of a client in filing a post-sentence motion and an appeal to the Superior Court from a 2022 criminal conviction. The client paid Respondent \$7500 for the representation. Respondent filed the notice of appeal. However, despite making multiple requests for extensions of time in which to file the appellant's brief, Respondent failed to file the brief. The Superior Court dismissed the appeal and directed the Superior Court Prothonotary to refer the matter to the Disciplinary Board. Respondent failed to notify his client of the dismissal of the appeal. Respondent was notified of Office of Disciplinary Counsel's investigation by a DB-7 Request for Statement of Respondent's Position dated January 17, 2023.

(b) The second matter involved Respondent's sexually explicit communications with a female client via the Snapchat social media platform during his representation of her in a criminal matter. Respondent was notified of Office of Disciplinary Counsel's investigation by a DB-7 Request for Statement of Respondent's Position dated August 11, 2021.

4. Almost one year prior to receiving the Public Reprimand, Respondent received a Letter of Concern, dated August 30, 2022, for a matter in which he was appointed as PCRA counsel. Respondent failed to timely enter his appearance in the matter or file an amended petition for post-conviction relief on behalf of his client. Respondent was advised of Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3, 1.4(a)(2), 1.4(a)(3), 1.4(a)(4) and 8.4(d) and the importance of his compliance with these rules.

5. The Office of Disciplinary Counsel currently has thirteen (13) open files against Respondent. Despite being the subject of disciplinary investigations and public discipline, Respondent continues to demonstrate a pattern of abandonment of his clients, resulting in his clients suffering adverse consequences. Respondent has also demonstrated ongoing inappropriate sexual conduct with female clients he is representing on criminal charges.

In the Matter of Troy Anthony Dew

6. Respondent was paid \$5,000 to file an appeal to the Superior Court on behalf of Troy Anthony Dew (hereinafter Mr. Dew) following his 2022 criminal conviction at docket number CP-62-CR-0000369-2021 in the Court of Common Pleas of Warren County.

7. On November 17, 2022, Respondent filed an appeal to the Superior Court.

8. Respondent filed multiple requests for extensions of time in which to file appellant's brief.

9. After a final request for an extension, Respondent was given a deadline of July 5, 2023, to file the brief.

10. On July 14, 2023, Respondent filed an untimely brief.

11. Upon the Superior Court's review of the brief, it discovered that Respondent had failed to attach a copy of the trial court's Pa.R.A.P. 1925(a) opinion.

12. By Order of Court filed on August 14, 2023, Respondent was directed to file an amended brief that included a copy of the trial court's opinion and to comply in all other aspects with the requirements of Pa.R.A.P. 2111(a). The Superior Court warned that failure to file the amended brief would result in dismissal of the appeal without further notice. In the same Order, the Court also noted "with displeasure the fact that counsel did not attempt to file appellant's brief until nine days after the July 5, 2023 deadline".

The Superior Court directed its Prothonotary to copy the Disciplinary Board on the Order. (A true and correct copy of the Order of Court is attached and marked as Exhibit 1)

13. By Order of Court filed on August 28, 2023, the Superior Court dismissed Mr. Dew's appeal for Respondent's failure to file the amended brief per the Order of Court dated August 14, 2023. (A true and correct copy of the Order of Court is attached and marked as Exhibit 2)

14. Respondent failed to inform Mr. Dew that the Superior Court dismissed his appeal.

15. The dismissal of yet another appeal due to Respondent's failure to comply with the Superior Court's Orders demonstrates that Respondent was not deterred by the imposition of a Public Reprimand only a month earlier for the same misconduct.

16. Respondent continues to fail to provide competent representation to his clients, despite receiving compensation for his legal services.

In the Matter of Darren Douglas

17. In December 2021, Darren Douglas (hereinafter Mr. Douglas) paid Respondent \$7,500 to file an appeal from a DUI conviction at docket CP-33-CR-645-2020 in the Court of Common Pleas of Jefferson County.

18. Respondent timely filed the appeal; however, the appeal was dismissed in September of 2022 for Respondent's failure to timely file a docketing statement.

19. On October 6, 2022 the Superior Court vacated the Order of Dismissal and imposed a brief filing deadline of October 26, 2022.

20. Following Respondent's multiple requests for extensions to the briefing deadline, a final deadline of December 28, 2022 was imposed. The Superior Court's Order stated that no further extensions would be granted.

21. On December 28, 2022, Respondent filed an Application for Remand, which was denied on January 6, 2023.

22. By Order of Court dated February 6, 2023, the Superior Court dismissed the appeal because of Respondent's failure to file a brief. Respondent was directed to file a certification with the Superior Court that his

client had been notified within ten days of the Order of dismissal. (A true and correct copy of the Order of Court is attached and marked as Exhibit 3)

23. Respondent failed to inform Mr. Douglas of the dismissal of his appeal. Respondent also failed to file the certification as ordered by the Superior Court.

24. Respondent had received a DB-7 Request for Statement of Respondent's Position for similar misconduct on or about January 17, 2023. That disciplinary inquiry did not deter Respondent's lack of diligence in the Douglas matter, nor incentivize him to do better on behalf of his clients. Respondent wasted the Superior Court's resources by filing multiple extension requests, yet he failed to file the brief and thus caused the dismissal of Mr. Douglas's appeal. After his lack of diligence caused the dismissal of Mr. Douglas's appeal, Respondent failed to have any further communication with Mr. Douglas. By his failure to file the brief as directed by the Superior Court, Respondent exhibited disdain for the Courts and the judicial process, as well as Mr. Douglas's rights.

In the Matter of Shaun Michael Howard

25. On April 19, 2022, Respondent was court-appointed to represent Shawn Michael Howard (hereinafter Mr. Howard) in post-trial claims following a criminal conviction at docket CP-42-CR-0000591-2014 in the Court of Common Pleas of McKean County.

26. On May 16, 2022, Respondent filed a motion for extension to file a PCRA petition. By Order of Court dated May 17, 2022, the extension was granted. Between July 1, 2022 and September 2, 2022, Respondent filed three additional motions for extensions of time in which to file a PCRA petition. On September 2, 2022 the trial court granted the extension and ordered that an amended PCRA or no merit letter be filed by October 1, 2022.

27. Despite being granted multiple extensions of time, Respondent never filed an amended PCRA petition or a no merit letter on behalf of Mr. Howard. On December 13, 2022, the Commonwealth filed a Motion to Dismiss the PCRA as untimely. By Order of Court dated December 14, 2022, the Commonwealth's Motion to Dismiss was scheduled to be heard on December 30, 2022. Respondent was ordered to file an answer by December 24, 2022.

Respondent filed an untimely answer on December 27, 2022. A hearing was held on December 30, 2022.

28. By Order of Court dated January 5, 2023, the trial court dismissed the PCRA petition. The Order also stated that "Attorney Martini shall ensure that the Defendant is fully apprised of his appellate rights and perfect a timely appeal of this Order for the Defendant if the Defendant requests that he do so. If Attorney Martini intends on withdrawing from (sic) his representation of the Defendant, he **shall not** file a Motion to Withdraw **until after** filing a Notice of Appeal on his behalf". (A true and correct copy of the Order of Court is attached and marked as Exhibit 4) (*emphasis added*)

29. On January 27, 2023, Respondent filed a motion for leave to withdraw his appearance. Respondent indicated in his motion that Mr. Howard had advised him that he wished to file an appeal to the Superior Court, but he wanted the appointment of new counsel.

30. By Order of Court dated January 27, 2023, the trial court denied the motion to withdraw because new counsel would have very limited time in which to review the file and to file the appeal. (A true and correct copy of the Order of Court is attached and marked as Exhibit 5)

31. On February 15, 2023, Respondent filed a Notice of Appeal to the Superior Court. On March 16, 2023, Respondent filed a Statement of Intent to File an *Ander's* brief in the trial court.

32. On June 1, 2023, Respondent electronically filed an *Ander's* brief in the Superior Court. On June 13, 2023, Respondent filed an Application to Withdraw as Counsel in the Superior Court. The Court did not rule on Respondent's Application to Withdraw as Counsel.

33. By Order of Court dated August 4, 2023, the Superior Court directed Respondent to file the paper version of appellant's brief by August 11, 2023. (A true and correct copy of the Order of Court is attached and marked as Exhibit 6)

34. By Order of Court dated September 5, 2023, Mr. Howard's appeal was dismissed as a result of Respondent's failure to file the paper version of the brief as directed by the August 4, 2023 Order of Court. The Superior Court directed its Prothonotary to refer Respondent to the Disciplinary Board. (A true and correct copy of the Order of Court is attached and marked as Exhibit 7)

35. Respondent exhibited a lack of regard for both his client and the Superior Court after having just recently received a Public Reprimand for similar conduct. Respondent's continued lack of diligence and complete disregard of the orders entered by the Superior Court resulted in the Superior Court's dismissal of yet another appeal for a client represented by Respondent.

In the Matter of Daniel Oaks

36. On July 27, 2022, Respondent entered his appearance on behalf of Daniel Oaks (hereinafter Mr. Oaks) at docket number CP-42-CR-0000153-2019 in the Court of Common Pleas of McKean County.

37. Respondent filed a Notice of Appeal to the Superior Court following his client's criminal conviction.

38. On December 8, 2022, Respondent filed an Application for Relief seeking an extension of time to file the trial record. By Order of Court dated December 8, 2022, the Application for Relief was denied.

39. Respondent failed to timely file a docketing statement.

40. By Order of Court dated December 22, 2022, Respondent was directed to file the docketing statement on behalf of Mr. Oaks by January 3, 2023 and was informed that failure to file the docketing statement would lead to dismissal of the appeal. Respondent failed to file the docketing statement.

41. On February 22, 2023, Respondent filed a second Application for Relief, this time seeking additional time to submit the trial record due to a delay in receiving additional funds needed for the preparation of the trial transcript. By Order of Court dated March 6, 2023, the Application was denied.

42. On May 1, 2023, Respondent filed an Application for Extension of Time in which to supplement the record, asserting that he had not yet received the completed transcripts and therefore could not file a Concise Statement of Matters Complained of on Appeal or submit a brief. On May 10, 2023, Respondent filed an Application to Stay the Briefing Schedule, which was denied. The Application for Extension of Time to Supplement the Record was denied without prejudice.

43. On May 11, 2023, Respondent filed a Motion with the trial court to File Concise Statement of Errors Nunc Pro Tunc. By Order of Court dated

May 17, 2023, the trial court denied Respondent's motion. On May 30, 2023, Respondent filed a Motion for Extension of Time with the Superior Court to file the brief, which was then due on May 31, 2023. The motion was granted, and a brief filing deadline of August 7, 2023 was imposed. The Order also provided that no further extensions of time would be granted absent exigent circumstances.

44. Respondent failed to file a brief by August 7, 2023, or at any time thereafter.

45. By Order of Court dated September 18, 2023, the Superior Court directed its Prothonotary to withdraw Respondent's appearance from the appeal and refer Respondent to the Disciplinary Board as a result of his failure to file a brief on behalf of Mr. Oaks by the August 7, 2023 deadline. The certified record was remanded for appointment of new counsel by the trial court. (A true and correct copy of the Order of Court is attached and marked as Exhibit 8)

46. The Superior Court's Order directing the withdrawal of Respondent's appearance *sua sponte* demonstrates its frustration with Respondent's pattern

of delays, his defiance of court orders and his failure to comply with the Rules of Appellate Procedure.

In the Matter of Harold Carr

47. On or about November 11, 2021, Respondent was retained by Harold Carr (hereinafter "Mr. Carr") to provide a second opinion regarding the viability of a Petition for Post-Conviction Relief (hereinafter "PCRA") for Mr. Carr's conviction docketed at CP-24-CR-0000233-2019 in the Court of Common Pleas of Elk County.

48. On or about April 8, 2022, Respondent was paid \$3,000 to prepare and file a Petition for PCRA (hereinafter "Petition") on behalf of Mr. Carr.

49. On June 6, 2022, Respondent filed the Petition.

50. On June 17, 2022, the Court filed a Notice of Intention to Dismiss PCRA Petition.

51. On July 8, 2022, Respondent filed a Motion for Leave to File an amended Petition for Post-Conviction Relief and/or Response to Notice to Dismiss.

52. By Order of Court dated July 11, 2022, Respondent's motion was granted, and he was given an additional forty-five days in which to file an Amended Petition for Post-Conviction Relief and/or Response to Notice of Intention to Dismiss PCRA Petition issued by the Court on June 17, 2022.

53. On August 24, 2022, Respondent filed a Motion for Extension of Time for Filing an Amended Petition for Post-Conviction Relief. By Order of Court dated August 31, 2022, the Motion for Extension of Time to File an Amended Petition for Post-Conviction Relief was granted.

54. On October 14, 2022, Respondent filed a Motion for Recusal seeking to remove the Honorable John H. Foradora (hereinafter "Judge Foradora") from Mr. Carr's case. On October 14, 2022, Respondent also filed a Motion to Stay Filing Schedule, pending the outcome of the Motion for Recusal.

55. By Order of Court dated October 17, 2022, Judge Foradora denied the Motion for Recusal and Motion to Stay Filing. In his Order, Judge Foradora stated, inter alia, "It does not escape the Court's notice that counsel waited until the proverbial eleventh hour, i.e., right before his response to its Notice of Intention to Dismiss his client's PCRA petition is due, to file these

motions, and if counsel's conduct is consistent with his prior practices, the Court anticipates that he will use its denial of these motions as an excuse to request yet another delay to the entry of a final PCRA order. Such gamesmanship cannot be sanctioned, because of which the Court hereby advises counsel and his client that it will not grant another extension of thirty or forty-five days for the filing of a response to its notice of intention to dismiss. Nevertheless, because the defendant ought not suffer repercussions for what appears to be impertinent legal wrangling on the part of counsel, it will give him until the close of business on October 31, 2022 to file his response."

56. On or about October 31, 2022, Respondent filed a response to the Court's Notice of Intent to Dismiss Petition for Post-Conviction Relief. By Order of Court dated November 4, 2022, Mr. Carr's Petition was denied. The Order of Court included a statement of the defendant's right to appeal the Order.

57. Respondent received a copy of the November 4, 2022 Order. Respondent failed to give Mr. Carr a copy of the Order of Court denying the Petition. Respondent failed to advise Mr. Carr, in writing or verbally, that the Petition had been denied. Respondent also failed to advise Mr. Carr of his appellate rights following the denial of his Petition.

58. By email on or about November 11, 2022, Mr. Carr requested a status update. By email dated November 28, 2022, Respondent replied and informed him that he had received an Order of Court denying the Motion for Recusal. Respondent advised Mr. Carr that he had filed a Notice/Response to the denial of the Motion for Recusal. This statement was false.

59. Respondent's November 28<sup>th</sup> email failed to advise Mr. Carr of the denial of his PCRA Petition. By email dated December 5, 2022, Mr. Carr asked Respondent about a court filing that occurred on November 4, 2022, and whether it was a document that Respondent had filed.

60. By reply email on the same date, Respondent informed Mr. Carr that he had sent his response to the Notice of Intention to Dismiss PCRA Petition via email on October 31, 2022 because he was Covid-19 positive, and that the original was received on November 4, 2022. Respondent's statement to Mr. Carr was not true.

61. Mr. Carr learned of the denial of his PCRA petition through his own research. Respondent never advised Mr. Carr of the denial of the PRCA petition and never advised him of his appellate rights.

62. Office of Disciplinary Counsel issued a DB-7 Request for Statement of Respondent's Position dated August 16, 2023. Respondent's Statement of Position was due on September 15, 2023. Respondent has not submitted a response, nor has he contacted Office of Disciplinary Counsel to discuss the DB-7.

63. Respondent's failure to communicate with his clients, or act in their best interest, has been ongoing and has continued despite Respondent being put on notice of numerous complaints by the Office of Disciplinary Counsel requesting Statements of Respondent's Position and receiving a Public Reprimand.

In the Matter of Michael Sarageno

64. On July 27, 2023, Office of Disciplinary Counsel received a complaint filed by LeeAnn Covac, District Court Administrator of Elk/Cameron Counties, alleging Respondent's misconduct in connection with his representation of Michael Sarageno, the defendant in a civil case docketed at 2021-646 in the Civil Division of the Court of Common Pleas of Elk County.

65. On April 26, 2023, a hearing was scheduled on Plaintiff's Motion seeking sanctions as a result of Respondent's lack of compliance with an

Order of Court directing a deposition that had been requested by plaintiff's counsel.

66. At 10:42 a.m. on the morning of the scheduled hearing, Respondent emailed the court administration staff to advise the staff that his stepdaughter had a medical emergency, and he could not appear. He further indicated that he had contacted opposing counsel. Respondent also left a voicemail message at the number for the judge's assistant.

67. Respondent failed to request a postponement of the hearing.

68. Plaintiff's counsel appeared at the scheduled hearing. Neither Respondent nor his client appeared at the scheduled hearing. Following Respondent's failure to appear, the judge scheduled a Contempt Hearing to address Respondent's failure to appear at the April 26, 2023 hearing.

69. On July 27, 2023, Respondent appeared at the contempt hearing. Respondent's testimony regarding his inability to appear at the hearing was inconsistent with the messages he conveyed to court personnel and opposing counsel on April 26, 2023. Further, opposing counsel informed the presiding judge of Respondent's ongoing practice of failing to provide him with copies of

case documents, yet filing certifications indicating that opposing counsel had been copied on the documents.

70. By Order of Court dated July 27, 2023, the Honorable Shawn T. McMahon found Respondent in contempt, holding that Respondent's failure to appear before the Court on April 26, 2023 was willful and that he had not presented sufficient verifiable good cause as to why he failed to appear. ( A true and correct copy of the Order of Court is attached and marked as Exhibit 9)

71. Respondent was given the opportunity to purge his contempt by appearing at all further court proceedings and not requesting any continuances.

72. After having received a Public Reprimand, Respondent was found in contempt for his failure to provide sufficient evidence to support his unavailability for a scheduled hearing. Although his failure to appear on April 26, 2023, occurred prior to his Public Reprimand, Respondent was on notice of the disciplinary investigation involving his alleged violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

In the Matter of A.A.

73. On September 1, 2023, Office of Disciplinary Counsel received a complaint alleging that Respondent paid a former client, A.A., to send him sexually explicit pictures and videos of herself, on several occasions, during the time that he was representing her on criminal charges.

74. Between September 2021 and April 2023, Respondent represented A.A. in the Court of Common Pleas in McKean County and A.A. paid Respondent approximately \$3,000 for the representation.

75. During his representation of A.A., Respondent became aware that A.A. was in need of money; he requested sexually explicit photos and videos of A.A.; and in exchange, Respondent agreed to pay A.A. for these sexually explicit pictures and videos.

76. Between July 2022 and October 2022, Respondent paid A.A. a total of \$1,375 for the sexually explicit photos and videos provided on seven occasions.

77. Respondent paid A.A. via Venmo, a payment app, under the alias name of Vince Latco.

78. At Respondent's request, A.A. used Snapchat to send the sexually explicit photos and videos.

79. Respondent withdrew from A.A.'s criminal case in April, 2023.

80. Respondent's misconduct involving A.A. occurred after he was placed on notice of the disciplinary investigation of similar conduct in 2021. Undeterred by the investigation, Respondent escalated his inappropriate sexual conduct by engaging in the ongoing solicitation of sexually explicit photos from a female client over an extended period of time.

In the Matter of B.R.

81. During Office of Disciplinary Counsel's investigation of the A.A. matter, it was discovered that Respondent also made multiple payments to B.R. via Venmo, utilizing the alias Vince Latco, between May 30, 2022 and November 30, 2022.

82. A review of the criminal docket for B.R. in the Court of Common Pleas of Elk County revealed that Respondent represented B.R. between April 2022 and February 2023.

83. On September 27, 2023, Office of Disciplinary Counsel spoke with B.R. regarding Respondent's representation of her in the criminal matter. B.R. provided the following:

(a) Respondent represented her in the criminal matter that arose in April 2022.

(b) Respondent requested nude photos of B.R. in exchange for legal representation of her in her criminal case.

(c) B.R. sent sexually explicit photos of herself to Respondent via Snapchat.

(d) Respondent also paid B.R. via Cash App and PayPal for the sexually explicit photos.

(e) Respondent sent payments to B.R. via a Venmo account using the name "Vince Latco".

(f) B.R. confirmed that she received payments in May, July, October, and November, 2022.

(g) B.R. offered to pay Respondent cash for the representation; however, he requested sexually explicit photos in lieu of cash payments.

84. Respondent was placed on notice of Office of Disciplinary Counsel's investigation of his exchange of sexually explicit messages and photos with a client in 2021 by his receipt of a DB-7 Request for Statement of Position. Respondent's conduct with B.R. began or continued after he was aware of Office of Disciplinary Counsel's investigation of the earlier incident.

85. Respondent utilized his fiduciary position as B.R.'s attorney to exploit his client by requesting sexually explicit photos of herself in exchange for legal services.

86. Respondent provided financial assistance to his client for his own personal gratification.

87. Respondent's solicitation of sexually explicit photos from female clients demonstrates his ongoing proclivity to exploit female clients for sexual purpose and that he poses an ongoing threat to the public.

#### In the Matter of Christopher Pedigo

88. On or about July 17, 2023, Christopher Pedigo (hereinafter Mr. Pedigo) spoke with Respondent regarding representation at a hearing on a

criminal matter before MDJ-55-3-01 in Coudersport Borough, scheduled for August 17, 2023.

89. Respondent agreed to the representation and quoted a retainer fee of \$1500.

90. Mr. Pedigo paid Respondent the fee in full by August 7, 2023.

91. By text message on August 13, 2023, Respondent directed Mr. Pedigo to contact him the following day.

92. Mr. Pedigo attempted to reach Respondent by phone, but Respondent did not answer.

93. On the morning of August 17, 2023, Respondent did not appear at the hearing. Respondent did not answer calls from Mr. Pedigo or the presiding judge. The district attorney also attempted to reach Respondent by phone, with no success.

94. Mr. Pedigo represented himself and was found guilty.

95. Respondent has not contacted Mr. Pedigo in any manner since texting him on August 13, 2023, and requesting that he contact Respondent.

In the Matter of Ashley Grovanz

96. In March 2022, Ashley Grovanz (hereinafter Ms. Grovanz) hired Respondent in connection with an adoption in Cameron County. Respondent quoted a fee of \$2500. Ms. Grovanz paid \$1250.00 on March 5, 2022 and the balance on June 21, 2023.

97. Respondent had not previously represented Ms. Grovanz; however, he did not, at that time or any time, thereafter, set forth in writing the basis or rate of his fees.

98. In June 2023, Respondent told Ms. Grovanz that he had filed a petition on her behalf and that it only required service on the responding party. Ms. Grovanz learned through her own investigation that no document had been filed on her behalf.

99. Since August 25, 2023, Ms. Grovanz has been unable to reach Respondent.

In the Matters of Elk and Cameron Counties

100. On September 27, 2023, Office of Disciplinary Counsel received a complaint from LeeAnn Covac, District Court Administrator for Elk and

Cameron counties, regarding Respondent's failure to appear at hearings in Elk and Cameron counties from August 25, 2023 to the present.

101. On August 28, 2023, a person representing herself as Respondent's wife informed Ms. Covac that Respondent would be in the hospital for ten days.

102. Respondent made no direct contact with Ms. Covac or any other court personnel.

103. As District Court Administrator, Ms. Covac has been contacted by many of Respondent's privately retained clients who have been unable to reach him.

104. Respondent is attorney of record for the defendant in the matter of *Commonwealth v. Jessica Tegano*, at docket CP-24-CR-127-2022 in the Court of Common Pleas of Elk County. A probation revocation hearing was originally scheduled for August 25, 2023, but was rescheduled for September 1, 2023, after Respondent indicated that he was unavailable. Respondent did not appear at the September 1, 2023 hearing, nor did he secure substitute counsel to appear for his client. The resolution of the revocation hearing was that the client would have to enter a rehabilitation facility. The trial judge

appointed a substitute attorney so that the defendant could be transferred to a rehabilitation facility promptly.

105. Respondent is attorney of record for the criminal defendant in the matter of *Commonwealth of Erin Pruett*, at docket CP-24-CR-373-2022 in the Court of Common Pleas of Elk County. A hearing/final call was September 1, 2023. Respondent did not appear, nor did he arrange for substitute counsel to appear on behalf of his client.

106. Respondent is attorney of record for the plaintiffs in the matter of *Brian and Christine Cannella vs. St. Mary's Area Water Authority* at docket 2021-373 in the Court of Common Pleas of Elk County. The matter was scheduled for a Status Conference on September 12, 2023. Respondent did not appear, nor did he arrange for substitute counsel to appear on behalf of his clients.

107. Respondent is attorney of record for the criminal defendant in the matter of *Commonwealth v. Aaron Gallagher*, at docket CP-24-CR-255-2022 in the Court of Common Pleas of Elk County. A sentencing hearing was scheduled for September 15, 2023. Respondent did not appear, nor did he arrange for substitute counsel to appear on behalf of his client.

108. Respondent is attorney of record for the criminal defendant in the matter of *Commonwealth v. Larry Shepard* at docket CP-12-CR-6-2023 in the Court of Common Pleas of Cameron County. A jury trial was scheduled for September 1, 2023. After learning of Respondent's unavailability for 10 days per Respondent's wife's email of August 28, 2023, the trial judge postponed the jury trial and scheduled a status conference on September 1, 2023. The trial judge notified Mr. Shepard that his attorney was unavailable, and the judge continued the jury trial, which was scheduled for September 5, 2023. A status conference was scheduled for September 26, 2023. Respondent did not appear, nor did he arrange for substitute counsel to appear on behalf of his client.

109. Respondent's clients have learned of his unavailability only after appearing in court without representation.

110. Respondent does not have office staff answering his calls or informing clients of the status of their matters.

111. Respondent is a sole practitioner with no other attorneys to cover his practice in his absence.

112. Respondent's public discipline, and informal interaction with the disciplinary system, have not been a deterrent to his ongoing course of misconduct involving his failure to perform competent legal services after receiving payment from his clients.

113. Respondent continues to abandon his clients, regardless of whether they are court appointed or privately retained.

114. Respondent has demonstrated disdain for the courts by failing to comply with court orders after squandering the court's resources by filing multiple motions for extensions and then failing to adhere to the new deadlines.

115. The Superior Court's concern with Respondent's conduct has led it to remove Respondent from a court appointed case *sua sponte* and to refer the case to the trial court for the appointment of new counsel.

116. Since January 2022, the Superior Court has been making referrals to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel when Respondent's misconduct results in the dismissal of his clients' appeals.

117. Respondent has violated the Rules of Professional Conduct and demonstrated contempt for the disciplinary process by failing to respond to DB-7 Requests for Statement of Respondent's Position.

118. Respondent's solicitation of sexually explicit photos from female clients demonstrates his ongoing proclivity to exploit those clients through his position of power and makes him a danger to his clients and the public.

PETITIONER RESPECTFULLY SUBMITS THAT:

It is evident from the proffered statement of facts that Respondent has engaged in conduct that involves, but may not be limited to, violations of:

(a) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.1 – A lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client. Competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness, and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation.

(b) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.3 – A lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client.

(c) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.4(a)(2) – A lawyer shall reasonably consult with the client about the means by which the client's objectives are to be accomplished.

(d) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.4(a)(3) – A lawyer shall keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the matter.

(e) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.4(a)(4) – A lawyer shall promptly comply with reasonable requests for information.

(f) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.5 – When the lawyer has not regularly represented the client, the basis or rate of the fee shall be communicated to the client, in writing, before or within a reasonable time after commencing the representation.

(g) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.7(a)(2) – A lawyer shall not represent a client if the representation involves a concurrent conflict of interest. A concurrent conflict of interest exists if there is a significant risk that the representation of one or more clients will be materially limited by the lawyer's responsibilities to another client, a former client or a third person or by a personal interest of the lawyer.

(h) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.8(e) – A lawyer shall not provide financial assistance to a client in connection with pending or contemplated litigation.

(i) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.8(j) – A lawyer shall not have sexual relations with a client unless a consensual relationship existed between them when the client-lawyer relationship commenced.

(j) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.16(a)(1) – A lawyer shall not represent a client or, where representation has commenced, shall withdraw from the representation of a client if the representation will result in violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct or other law.

(k) Rule of Professional Conduct 1.16(d) – Upon termination of representation, a lawyer shall take steps to the extent reasonably practicable to protect a client's interests, such as giving reasonable notice to the client, allowing time for employment of other counsel, surrendering papers and property to which the client is entitled and refunding any advance payment of fee or expense that has not been earned or incurred. The lawyer may retain papers relating to the client to the extent permitted by other law.

(l) Rule of Professional Conduct 3.2 – A lawyer shall make reasonable efforts to expedite litigation consistent with the interests of the client.

(m) Rule of Professional Conduct 3.3 – A lawyer shall not knowingly make a false statement of material fact or law to a tribunal or fail to correct a false statement of material fact or law previously made to the tribunal by the lawyer.

(n) Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4(a) – It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to violate the Rules of Professional Conduct, knowingly assist or induce another to do so, or do so through the acts of another.

(o) Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4(c) – It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

(p) Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4(d) – It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice.

The proffered facts clearly indicate that Respondent has engaged in an ongoing pattern of abandonment of his clients, resulting in dismissals of their causes of action, despite being put on notice by Office of Disciplinary Counsel of numerous complaints filed against him, being chastised by the Superior Court on multiple occasions and having been subjected to a Public Reprimand. Additionally, Respondent has continued to prey on his vulnerable female clients, requesting sexually explicit photos, to the extent that the continued practice of law by Respondent gives rise to a threat of immediate and substantial public and private harm, as described in Rule 208(f)(1), Pa.R.D.E.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Petitioner respectfully requests that your Honorable Court Issue a rule upon Respondent to show cause why he should not be placed on temporary suspension from the practice of law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, pursuant to Rule 208(f)(1), Pa.R.D.E., returnable at a date, time, and place certain, and with a response to the allegations set forth herein. A proposed Rule to Show Cause appropriate for this purpose is attached hereto.

AND FURTHER, that after due consideration of any response made by Respondent and further proceedings held in accordance with Rule 208(f), Pa.R.D.E., your Honorable Court grant the following additional relief:

- a. Order that Respondent be suspended in accordance with Rule 208(f)(2), Pa.R.D.E., as a matter of "public discipline" as that term is used in Rule 402, Pa.R.D.E., pertaining to confidentiality, and that he comply with Rule 217, Pa.R.D.E.;
- b. Order the President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Elk, Cameron, McKean, and Jefferson Counties, in accordance with Rule 217(g), Pa.R.D.E., to take such further action and make such further orders as may appear necessary to protect the rights and interests of Respondent's clients or fiduciary entities with which he is involved;
- c. Order Respondent to immediately prepare and deliver to Petitioner a list of the names and addresses of all clients and other entities he is currently representing or in which he is a fiduciary, showing the dates, amounts and circumstances of the entrustment and current balance thereof, as well as the banks and

account numbers in which such funds are currently maintained;  
and

- d. Order that all bank accounts held by Respondent or controlled by him, containing fiduciary funds, be frozen until further action by a court of appropriate jurisdiction; and
- e. Grant such other relief as may be deemed appropriate and necessary by your Honorable Court.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

Thomas J. Farrell  
Chief Disciplinary Counsel



By \_\_\_\_\_  
LaTammie D. Bivins  
Disciplinary Counsel

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, : No. Disciplinary Docket  
: No.  
Petitioner : 140  
: No. DB 2023  
vs. :  
:   
CHRISTOPHER JOHN MARTINI, : Attorney Registration No. 321416  
:   
Respondent : (Elk County)

CONCURRENCE OF DISCIPLINARY BOARD MEMBER

To the Honorable Chief Justice and Justices of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania:

Pursuant to Rule 208(f)(1), Pa.R.D.E., Disciplinary Board Rules §91.151(a), I have reviewed the foregoing Petition for Emergency Temporary Suspension and Related Relief Pursuant to Rule 208(f)(1), Pa.R.D.E., and the exhibits attached thereto, and concur in the presentation of the Petition to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania by the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

10/02/2023

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_

The Disciplinary Board of the  
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, : No. Disciplinary Docket  
: No.  
Petitioner :  
: No. 140 DB 2023  
vs. :  
: :  
CHRISTOPHER JOHN MARTINI, : Attorney Registration No. 321416  
: :  
Respondent : (Elk County)

RULE TO SHOW CAUSE

AND NOW, this \_\_\_\_ day of October, 2023, upon consideration of the *Petition for Emergency Temporary Suspension Order and Related Relief Pursuant to Rule 208(f)(1), Pa.R.D.E.*, a Rule is issued upon Christopher John Martini, to show cause why he should not be placed on temporary suspension.

Respondent is directed to file any Response to this Rule within ten (10) days of the date hereof and to timely serve a copy of said response upon the Office of Disciplinary Counsel at the Frick Building, Suite 1300, 437 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

# EXHIBIT 1

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA	:	IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
	:	PENNSYLVANIA
	:	
v.	:	Clarion County Criminal Division
	:	CP-16-CR-0000142-2021
	:	
TROY ANTHONY DEW	:	
	:	
Appellant	:	No. 1341 WDA 2022

**ORDER**

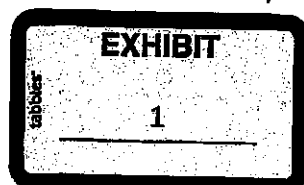
Appellant's brief was received in this Court on July 14, 2023.<sup>1</sup> Upon review of the brief, it was discovered that Appellant's counsel, Christopher John Martini, Esquire, failed to attach a copy of the Pa.R.A.P. 1925(a) opinion to the brief. **See** Pa.R.A.P. 2111(b) ("There shall be appended to the brief a copy of any opinions delivered by any trial court, ... if pertinent to the questions involved."). Accordingly, the following is hereby **ORDERED**:

Within seven (7) days of the date of this Order, Attorney Martini is **DIRECTED** to file an amended brief that includes a copy of the trial court opinion and complies in all other aspects with the requirements of Pa.R.A.P. 2111(a). Failure to comply with this directive may result in dismissal of this appeal without further notice.

The Prothonotary is **DIRECTED** to provide copies of this Order to Appellant Dew, Attorney Martini, and the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

PER CURIAM

<sup>1</sup> This Court notes with displeasure the fact that counsel did not attempt to file Appellant's brief until nine days after the July 5, 2023 deadline.



# EXHIBIT 2

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA : IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF  
: PENNSYLVANIA  
:   
v. : Clarion County Criminal Division  
: CP-16-CR-0000142-2021  
:   
TROY ANTHONY DEW :   
:   
Appellant : No. 1341 WDA 2022

**ORDER**

By Order of August 14, 2023, this Court directed Appellant's counsel, Christopher John Martini, Esquire, to file an amended brief that includes a copy of the Pa.R.A.P. 1925(a) opinion, **see** Pa.R.A.P. 2111(b), and complies in all other aspects with the requirements of Pa.R.A.P. 2111(a) within seven (7) days. The Order further provided that counsel's failure to comply may result in dismissal of this appeal without further notice. This Court notes with displeasure that, to date, Attorney Martini has not filed an amended brief. Accordingly, the following is hereby **ORDERED**:

The instant appeal is **DISMISSED**. The Prothonotary is **DIRECTED** to provide copies of this Order to Appellant Dew, Attorney Martini, and the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

PER CURIAM



# EXHIBIT 3

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA : IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF  
: PENNSYLVANIA  
v. :  
: Jefferson County Criminal  
: Division  
DARREN JAMES DOUGLAS : CP-33-CR-0000645-2020  
: Appellant :  
: No. 773 WDA 2022

**ORDER**

AND NOW, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023, counsel having failed to file a brief for appellant, the appeal is **DISMISSED**.

Counsel for appellant is **DIRECTED** to file with this court, within ten (10) days of the date of this order, a certification that the client has been notified of this dismissal.

PER CURIAM



# EXHIBIT 4

COMMONWEALTH

Vs.

SHAUN HOWARD

Defendant

: IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

: FOR MCKEAN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

: CRIMINAL DIVISION

: DOCKET # 591 CR 2014

**ORDER**

AND NOW, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023, based on the reasons set forth at the time of hearing and the Opinion filed contemporaneously with this Order, IT IS ORDERED AS FOLLOWS: the Defendant's Petition for Post-Conviction Collateral Relief is DISMISSED / DENIED.

The Defendant is hereby advised, as he was at the time of hearing, of his right to file an appeal of this decision and order which dismisses and denies his Petition for PCRA Relief. Appeal must be filed with the McKean County Clerk of Court's within 30 days of the Defendant's receipt of this order. The Clerk of Courts shall: serve the Defendant with a copy of this Order by certified mail, return receipt requested. In addition, since he is still counsel of record, Attorney Christopher Martini shall also be provided a copy of this Order and Opinion. **Attorney Martini shall assure that the Defendant is fully apprised of his appellate rights and perfect a timely appeal of this Order for the Defendant if the Defendant requests that he do so.** If Attorney Martini intends on withdrawing from his representation of the Defendant, he shall not file a Motion to Withdraw until after filing a Notice of Appeal on the Defendant's behalf.



BY THE COURT

*John H. Pavlock*

JOHN H. PAVLOCK, J.

2023 JAN -9 AM 11:47

*lit*

**Certification**

I hereby certify the within to be a true & correct copy thereof as filed in the office of the Prothonotary of McKean County, Pennsylvania.

*Lily M. Madano*  
Prothonotary

cc: DA  
cc: Deft.  
cc: Chris Martini (1-9-23)

# EXHIBIT 5

COMMONWEALTH

VS.

SHAUN HOWARD,

Defendant

: IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

: OF MCKEAN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

: CRIMINAL DIVISION

: 591 CR 2014

ORDER

AND NOW, this 27 day of January 2023, defense counsel, Attorney Christopher John Martini, Esq., having filed a Motion to Withdraw; and: 1) an Order having been filed on January 9, 2023 denying the Defendant's Post-Conviction Collateral Relief Petition; 2) the Defendant having 30 days from the issuance of said Order to file a Notice of Appeal; 3) Attorney Martini having indicated in said Motion that the Defendant has advised him that he wishes to file an appeal; 4) new counsel having very limited time to review the file, etc. to perfect an appeal; and, 5) the court being concerned that the Defendant's appellate rights would be prejudiced by the withdraw of counsel at this time, the Motion to Withdraw is DENIED.

BY THE COURT:

*John H. Pavlock*

JOHN H. PAVLOCK, P.J.

2023 JAN 30 AM 9:31

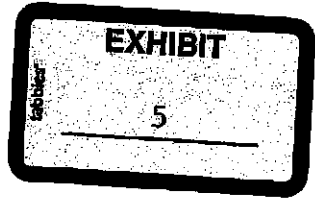
*enx*

Certification

I hereby certify the within to be a true & correct copy thereof as filed in the office of the Prothonotary of McKean County, Pennsylvania.

*Vuby M. Madene*  
Prothonotary

CC: DA  
CE: C Martini, Prob  
(1/30/23)



# EXHIBIT 6

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA	:	IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
	:	PENNSYLVANIA
	:	
v.	:	McKean County Criminal
	:	Division
	:	CP-42-CR-0000591-2014
SHAUN MICHAEL HOWARD	:	
	:	
Appellant	:	No. 182 WDA 2023

**ORDER**

Attorney Christopher Martini filed a brief in this Court for the above-captioned appeal through the PACFile electronic filing system on June 1, 2023. As of the date of this Order, Attorney Martini has not provided a paper version and the requisite number of copies of the brief to this Court. **See** Order, 418 Judicial Administration Docket, at II(I) (Pa. filed Jan. 6, 2014) (*per curiam*) ("Within seven days of the submission of any electronic filing, the electronic filer shall submit to the court a paper version of the electronic filing with as many copies as the court requires"). This Court's Office of the Prothonotary attempted to contact Attorney Martini regarding the overdue paper copies of the brief via letters on June 28, 2023, and July 21, 2023, and no response has been received to date. The following is now **ORDERED**:

Attorney Martini is **DIRECTED** to file a paper version and the requisite number of copies of the brief with this Court within 7 days of the date of this Order. Failure to comply may result in this Court's striking the electronic filing



from the docket and other pertinent consequences, including potential dismissal of the appeal, if necessary.

PER CURIAM

# EXHIBIT 7

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA : IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF  
: PENNSYLVANIA  
:   
v. : McKean County Criminal  
: Division  
: CP-42-CR-0000591-2014  
SHAUN MICHAEL HOWARD :  
:   
Appellant : No. 182 WDA 2023

**ORDER**

Attorney Christopher Martini filed a brief in this Court for the above-captioned appeal through the PACFile electronic filing system on June 1, 2023. However, Attorney Martini did not provide a paper version and the requisite number of copies of the brief to this Court. **See** Order, 418 Judicial Administration Docket, at II(I) (Pa. filed Jan. 6, 2014) (*per curiam*) (“Within seven days of the submission of any electronic filing, the electronic filer shall submit to the court a paper version of the electronic filing with as many copies as the court requires”).

This Court’s Office of the Prothonotary attempted to contact Attorney Martini regarding the overdue paper copies of the brief via letters on June 28, 2023, and July 21, 2023. Further, by Order dated August 4, 2023, this Court directed Attorney Martini to file a paper version and the requisite number of copies of the brief within 7 days. The Order stated that failure to comply may result in pertinent consequences, including this Court striking the electronic filing from the docket and dismissal of the appeal. Attorney Martini has not



complied with this Court's directive to date. Accordingly, the following is **ORDERED**:

The Prothonotary of this Court is **DIRECTED** to strike the June 1, 2023 electronic filing from this Court's docket. As a result, the instant appeal is **DISMISSED** for Counsel's failure to file a brief.

The Prothonotary of this Court is **DIRECTED** to refer Attorney Martini to the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Appellant Howard may seek the reinstatement of his appeal rights in the trial court pursuant to the Pennsylvania Post-Conviction Relief Act, 42 Pa.C.S. § 9541-9546.

The Prothonotary of this Court is **DIRECTED** to forward a copy of this Order to, *inter alia*, Attorney Christopher Martini and Appellant Howard.

PER CURIAM

# EXHIBIT 8

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA	:	IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
	:	PENNSYLVANIA
	:	
v.	:	McKean County Criminal
	:	Division
	:	CP-42-CR-0000153-2019
DANIEL WALTER OAKS, II	:	
	:	
Appellant	:	No. 1325 WDA 2022

**ORDER**

Appellant Oaks's brief was originally due in this Court on May 1, 2023. Following multiple extension requests by Attorney Christopher Martini, Counsel for Appellant Oaks, this Court entered an order on July 7, 2023, stating that Appellant's brief was due on August 7, 2023, and that no further extensions of time to file Appellant's brief would be granted absent exigent circumstances. To date, Attorney Martini has not filed a brief in this Court on behalf of Appellant. Accordingly, the following is **ORDERED**:

The Prothonotary of this Court is **DIRECTED** to withdraw Attorney Martini's appearance from this appeal and refer Attorney Martini to the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

The certified record is **REMANDED** for a period of time not to exceed 60 days, during which time the trial court is **DIRECTED** to appoint substitute counsel to represent Appellant Oaks. The trial court shall direct substitute counsel to enter his or her appearance in this Court forthwith. The trial court shall thereafter retransmit the certified record to this Court within 60 days of the date of this Order. Nothing herein prevents Appellant from retaining private counsel to represent him in this matter.

The briefing schedule is **VACATED**, and the Prothonotary of this Court shall enter a new briefing schedule upon receipt of the retransmitted certified record.

The Prothonotary of this Court is **DIRECTED** to forward a copy of this Order to, *inter alia*, the Honorable John H. Pavlock, the Commonwealth, Attorney Christopher Martini, and Appellant Oaks.

PER CURIAM



# EXHIBIT 9

Pa.R.C.P 236

NOTICE

PROVIDED:

ON: 7-28-23

THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF THE FIFTY-NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DGA  
CJM

PROGRESSIVE INSURANCE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, a/s/o KINKEAD, LLC,

Plaintiff

vs.

MICHAEL SARAGENO,

Defendant.

\* COUNTY BRANCH – ELK  
\*  
\*  
\* CIVIL  
\*  
\* NO. 2021-646

ORDER OF COURT

AND NOW, this 27th day of July, 2023, Christopher J. Martini, Esq., attorney for defendant, Michael Sarageno, appearing before the Court this date for purposes of contempt hearing as a result of Order of Court dated April 26, 2023, having been entered of record May 2, 2023, directing that Attorney Martini appear for a contempt proceeding originally scheduled for May 17, 2023, which had been previously continued at the request of Attorney Martini. In consideration of the evidence presented, the Court does find that Attorney Martini did have actual notice of the hearing scheduled for April 26, 2023, and that his failure to appear before the Court on April 26, 2023, was willful. Specifically, the Court finds that in consideration of the Order of Court entered of record April 26, 2023, wherein Attorney Martini was advised to present documented evidence as to his unavailability based upon an email correspondence dated April 26, 2023, timestamped 10:42 a.m., wherein Attorney Martini advised that he was going to the hospital and that his wife was unavailable to assist., and in consideration thereof, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND DECREED** that Christopher J. Martini, Esq., is found to be in contempt as the Court finds that he has not presented sufficient verifiable good cause as to why he failed to appear before the Court on April 26, 2023.

In consideration of Attorney Martini having been found in contempt, he may purge himself of this contempt finding by appearing at all future court proceedings in the above-captioned matter, not requesting any continuance under any circumstances, and strictly complying with all provisions of the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure. In the event that Attorney Martini fails to comply with any of the purge conditions set forth herein, then in such event plaintiff may file a motion with the Court for further sanctions to be imposed or this Court may *sua sponte* subject Attorney Martini to further contempt proceedings.

In consideration of the aforesaid and the evidence presented, **IT IS FURTHER HEREBY ORDERED AND DECREED** that defendant's motion for continuance *nunc pro tunc* filed May 8, 2023, is denied and dismissed.

BY THE COURT:

*Shawn T. McMahon*  
Shawn T. McMahon, President Judge

FILED  
JUL 28 2023  
12:11  
ELK COUNTY  
PROTHONOTARY & CLERK OF COURTS

EXHIBIT  
9

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, : No. Disciplinary Docket  
: No.  
Petitioner :  
: No. 140 DB 2023  
vs. :  
: :  
CHRISTOPHER JOHN MARTINI, : Attorney Registration No. 321416  
: :  
Respondent : (Elk County)

VERIFICATION

The statements contained in the foregoing *Petition for Emergency Temporary Suspension Order and Related Relief Pursuant to Rule 208(f)(1), Pa.R.D.E.* are true and correct to the best of my knowledge or information and belief and are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. §4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

10/2/23

Date



\_\_\_\_\_  
LaTammie D. Bivins  
Disciplinary Counsel

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

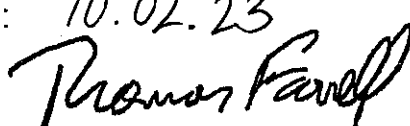
OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, : No. Disciplinary Docket  
: No.  
Petitioner :  
: No. 140 DB 2023  
vs. :  
: :  
CHRISTOPHER JOHN MARTINI, : Attorney Registration No. 321416  
: :  
Respondent : (Elk County)

PROOF OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I am causing to be served a copy of the foregoing *Petition for Emergency Temporary Suspension Order and Related Relief Pursuant to Rule 208(f)(1), Pa.R.D.E.*, and all accompanying documents upon the person and in the manner indicated below, which service satisfies the requirements of 208(f)(1), Pa.R.D.E. and Pa.R.A.P. 121:

Personal Service to be attempted as follows:

Christopher John Martini, Esquire (814-781-3102)  
400 South Michael Road  
Saint Marys, PA 15857

Dated: 10.02.23  


---

Thomas J. Farrell, Attorney Registration No. 48976  
Chief Disciplinary Counsel

**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts* that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

Submitted by: LaTammie D. Bivins

Signature: 

Name: LaTammie D. Bivins

Attorney No. (if applicable): 79599

**From:** "DBoard D4"  
**Sent:** Thu 3/26/2026 10:25 AM  
**To:** "christopher\_martini@yahoo.com" <christopher\_martini@yahoo.com>  
**Subject:** ODC v Martini 140 DB 2023  
**Attachments:** RESIGFWD LTR to R.pdf

Attached please find a Resignation from Disciplinary Counsel LaTammie Bivins.

The Office of Disciplinary Counsel requests that receipt of Resignation be confirmed in a response email.

Please be advised that on April 7, 2020, the Pennsylvania Disciplinary Board entered Administrative Order No. 2020-04 authorizing electronic service of documents in informal and formal proceedings, including but not limited to orders, notices, pleadings, briefs, and correspondence, unless personal service is required under the Pennsylvania rules of Disciplinary Enforcement.

Office of Disciplinary Counsel

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Submitted by: LaTammie D. Bivins

Signature: 

Name: LaTammie D. Bivins

Attorney No. (if applicable): 79599