

**IN RE: STEVEN C. PARKER****NO. BD-2010-096****S.J.C. Order of Term Suspension entered by Justice Gants on October 5, 2011.¹****SUMMARY²**

On May 13, 2003, the respondent applied for admission to the bar of the Commonwealth. As part of his application, he was required to complete a questionnaire including the question, “Have you ever been charged with or been the subject of any investigation for a felony or misdemeanor other than a minor traffic violation?” The respondent answered “no” to this question. His petition was not granted, and the respondent filed three more applications for admission to the bar— later in 2003 and in 2004 and 2005—answering “no” to the same question.

In fact, in 1999 the respondent had admitted to sufficient facts in New Bedford District Court to leaving the scene of property damage in violation of G.L. c. 90, § 24; operating an uninsured motor vehicle in violation of G.L. c. 90, § 34J; and operating with a suspended license in violation of G.L. c. 90, § 23. Once he completed restitution in August 1999, the charges were dismissed. The respondent did not list these charges on the questionnaire because he mistakenly and unreasonably concluded that he was not required to do so because they had been dismissed. The respondent’s false answer on the questionnaires in connection with his petition for admission to the bar violated Mass. R. Prof. C. 8.4(d).

The respondent was admitted to the bar on June 21, 2006. On July 11, 2008, he admitted to sufficient facts in Taunton District Court to possession of a Class B drug in violation of G.L. c. 94C, § 34. The case was continued without a finding to July 10, 2009. On July 31, 2008, the respondent admitted to sufficient facts in Taunton District Court to violating an abuse prevention order in violation of G.L. c. 209A, § 7. The person who had the restraining order had initiated the contact with the respondent. The case was continued without a finding for three months, but the respondent was found in violation of probation on April 12, 2010, and the respondent’s probation was extended for another four months. On September 17, 2008, the respondent admitted to sufficient facts in Taunton District Court to concealing, selling, or pledging leased personalty, a laptop, in violation of G.L. c. 266, § 87. That case was continued without a finding for six months, and the respondent was ordered to pay restitution of \$1,574.55 to Rent-A-Center. The respondent was found in violation of probation in this matter, and his probation was extended for four months. On March 2, 2010, the respondent was convicted of unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and was fined \$100. Except for the March 2010 conviction, the respondent violated S. J. C. Rule 4:01, § 12(8), by not reporting these convictions as defined by S. J. C. Rule 4:01, § 12(1), to bar counsel.

Violation of an abuse prevention order and concealing, selling, or pledging leased personalty are “serious” crimes as defined by S. J. C. Rule 4:01, § 12(3). The respondent’s criminal conduct violated Mass. R. Prof. C. 8.4(b), (c), (d), and (h). His conduct in violating the

¹ The complete Order of the Court is available by contacting the Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County.

² Compiled by the Board of Bar Overseers based on the record filed with the Supreme Judicial Court.

terms of probation violated Mass. R. Prof. C. 8.4(d). The respondent's failure to report the convictions to bar counsel violated S. J. C. Rule 4:01, § 12(8), and Mass. R. Prof. C. 8.4(d).

On December 22, 2010, the respondent was temporarily suspended from the practice of law. On August 31, 2011, the respondent and bar counsel filed a stipulation with the Board of Bar Overseers in which the respondent admitted to the foregoing misconduct and the parties recommended a fifteen-month suspension retroactive to the date of his temporary suspension. In mitigation, the respondent's criminal conduct did not involve his representation of a client. In aggravation, the respondent was convicted, as that term is defined by S. J. C. Rule 4:01, § 12(1), of several offenses; violated his probation in two of the cases; and, in connection with his petition for admission, had failed to take reasonable action to clarify his obligation in responding to the question he answered incorrectly.

On September 12, 2011, the Board of Bar Overseers voted to accept the parties' stipulation and their recommendation for sanction. On October 5, 2011, the Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County (Gants, J.) entered an order suspending the respondent for fifteen months retroactive to December 22, 2010.