

**IN RE: EDWARD A. LAPLANTE****NO. BD-2011-068****S.J.C. Judgment of Disbarment entered by Justice Botsford on January 30, 2012, with an effective date of February 29, 2012.¹****SUMMARY²**

On March 22, 2010, the respondent, Edward A. LaPlante, pleaded no contest in superior court in Napa County, California, to one count of distributing lewd material to a minor in violation of Cal. Penal Code § 288.2(a), as a misdemeanor pursuant to Cal. Penal Code § 17(b). The respondent engaged in lewd communications via a live video feed and social networking site with a person known to the respondent to be fifteen years old. The respondent was sentenced to one day in jail and three years' probation with conditions that he register as a sex offender, stay at least 100 yards from places where children gather, and give his probation officer all computer passwords used by him in all e-mail and social networking sites. The respondent did not report the conviction to bar counsel, thereby violating S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 12(8).

On July 26, 2010, bar counsel filed a petition for discipline setting forth the conviction and the respondent's failure to report the conviction, alleging that the misconduct violated Mass. R. Prof. C. 8.4(b), (d), and (h). The respondent did not file an answer to the petition, and he did not otherwise participate in the bar discipline proceedings.

On October 17, 2011, the Board of Bar Overseers voted to recommend that the respondent be disbarred. An information and the record of proceedings was filed in the Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County, which issued an order of notice on January 5, 2012, to the parties of a hearing on the board's recommendation scheduled for January 23, 2012. Bar counsel appeared at the hearing, but the respondent did not appear. On January 30, 2012, the county court (Botsford, J.) entered a judgment of disbarment effective thirty days after the date of the order.

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.