

**IN RE: LAWRENCE M. PERLMUTTER****NO. BD-2011-107****S.J.C. Judgment of Disbarment entered by Justice Spina on March 7, 2012.¹****SUMMARY²**

On October 5, 2011, the respondent pleaded guilty in the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts to one count of money-laundering conspiracy in violation of 18 U. S. C. § 1956(h), one count of money laundering in violation of 18 U. S. C. § 1956(a)(3), and three counts of failure to file Form 8300 in violation of 31 U. S. C. § 5324(b)(1). The respondent participated in a scheme to launder illicit drug proceeds through his IOLTA account so that the funds could be used to post bail for defendants facing felony drug charges. Over fifty defendants were bailed pursuant to the scheme, and drug proceeds exceeding \$2 million were processed through the IOLTA account. The federal court reserved decision whether to accept the guilty plea pending receipt of the pre-sentence report.

The respondent was temporarily suspended from the practice of law on November 16, 2011, pursuant to S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 12A. On January 12, 2012, the respondent was sentenced to concurrent terms of sixty-six months imprisonment followed by twenty-four months of supervised release.

On January 13, 2012, bar counsel filed a petition for discipline charging that the respondent's conduct violated Mass. R. Prof. C. 1.15(b)(2) and 8.4(a)-(d) and (h). On February 2, 2012, the respondent filed an affidavit of resignation pursuant to S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 15, in which he admitted to the material facts in the petition for discipline and agreed that the conduct violated Mass. R. Prof. C. 8.4, but he denied that he had violated Mass. R. Prof. C. 1.15(b). Bar counsel recommended that the affidavit of resignation be accepted and that a judgment of disbarment enter and that the Board of Bar Overseers find that Mass. R. Prof. C. 1.15(b) had been violated. Bar counsel recommended that the effective date be the date of the respondent's temporary suspension.

On February 13, 2012, the Board of Bar Overseers voted to recommend to the Supreme Judicial Court that the affidavit of resignation be accepted and that a judgment of disbarment enter, effective November 16, 2011. The board also found that the conduct violated Mass. R. Prof. C. 1.15. On March 7, 2012, the Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County entered a judgment of disbarment effective November 16, 2011.

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.