IN RE: SINEAD A. O'BRIEN
NO. BD-2012-103
S.J.C. Order of Term Suspension/Stayed entered by Justice Botsford on July 23, 2013.[1]

SUMMARY[2]

Sinead A. O'Brien was admitted to the bar of the Commonwealth on December 1, 2005. On May 25, 2012, the respondent was at a bar and grill, drank to excess, and attacked another patron. On October 3, 2012, she admitted to sufficient facts to assault and battery in violation of G. L. c. 265, § 13(a). The case was continued without a finding until April 3, 2013, subject to conditions including attendance at Alcoholics Anonymous three times per week. In violation of S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 12(8), the respondent did not report the conviction to bar counsel within ten days of the admission to sufficient facts.

The respondent had been publicly reprimanded on May 24, 2012, following her conviction of malicious destruction of property. *Matter of O'Brien*, Public Reprimand No. 2012-11, 28 Mass. Att'y Disc. Rep.__ (2012). The assault and battery occurred four days after her release from probation for the prior conviction and one day after the public reprimand issued.

The respondent had suffered from depression and alcohol abuse for many years, and drinking played a substantial role in both crimes. She complied with the terms of probation in both cases. In mitigation, neither offense involved clients or the practice of law, and the respondent had taken substantive steps to address her problem with alcohol. The respondent also closed her private practice and thereafter engaged in limited legal work under the supervision of another lawyer.

On February 7, 2013, bar counsel filed a petition for discipline. On June 5, 2013, the respondent filed an amended answer admitting to the allegations; that her criminal conduct violated Mass. R. Prof. C. 8.4(b) and (h); and that her failure to report the conviction to bar counsel violated S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 12(8), and Mass. R. Prof. C. 3.4(c) and 8.4(d). The parties stipulated to a nine-month suspension from the practice of law, stayed for two years subject to conditions.

On June 24, 2013, the Board of Bar Overseers voted to accept the parties' stipulation and agreement as to discipline. After an information and record of proceedings were filed with the Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County, the county Court (Botsford, J.) entered an order on July 23, 2013, suspending the respondent for nine months subject to the conditions set forth in 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.