

**IN RE: JOHN A. JAMES, JR.****NO. BD-2014-096****S.J.C. Judgment of Disbarment entered by Justice Lenk on August 22, 2016.¹****SUMMARY²**

This matter came before the Board of Bar Overseers and the Court on the respondent's affidavit of resignation pursuant to Supreme Judicial Court Rule 4:01, § 15. In the affidavit, the respondent acknowledged that the material facts summarized below could be proved by a preponderance of the evidence.

The respondent was admitted to practice in the Commonwealth on December 15, 1997. He was administratively suspended pursuant to S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 3(2), on October 27, 2014. In connection with his personal post-divorce matters, the respondent repeatedly and knowingly violated orders of the probate court, with the result that he was adjudged in contempt twenty-two times. The respondent failed to appear for scheduled court hearings, and failed to appear and answer two capias for his arrest. The probate court made findings that in post-divorce proceedings the respondent misrepresented his income and assets to the probate court, made knowingly false statements to the probate court, and sought to conceal information from the probate court by failing to produce all relevant financial documents. The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Hampshire found that the respondent had filed a personal bankruptcy action in bad faith. The respondent also knowingly failed without good cause to respond to bar counsel's requests for information in connection with an investigation, and knowingly failed to comply with the administrative suspension order by failing to notify all clients and opposing counsel. By his conduct, the respondent violated Mass. R. Prof. C. 3.1, 3.3(a)(1), 3.4(a), 3.4(c), 8.1(b), 8.4(c), 8.4(d), 8.4(g), S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 3(1)(b), and S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 17(1)(c) and (d).

On May 5, 2016, bar counsel filed a petition for discipline. On July 19, 2016, the respondent filed an affidavit of resignation. On August 8, 2016, the Board of Bar Overseers voted to recommend that the affidavit of resignation be accepted and the respondent be disbarred. On August 22, 2016, the Supreme Judicial Court entered a judgment accepting the affidavit of resignation and disbarring the respondent from the practice of law in the Commonwealth effective immediately upon the entry of the judgment.

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.