

**IN RE: EDWARD J. LANG****NO. BD-2015-041****S.J.C. Judgment of Disbarment entered by Justice Cordy on May 19, 2016.<sup>1</sup>****SUMMARY<sup>2</sup>**

The respondent was admitted to the bar of Massachusetts on May 19, 1989. On May 19, 2016, he was disbarred for converting funds entrusted to him by a client following the settlement of a personal injury case.

The respondent represented an elderly and disabled client in regard to a 2003 motor vehicle accident. Following a settlement of that claim in 2007, the respondent agreed to hold \$37,500 of the client's settlement proceeds in a "separate IOLTA and to preserve and protect these funds for [the client's] benefit." The respondent deposited the funds into a separate IOLTA account. Thereafter, he disbursed \$17,500 of the funds in accordance with the client's instructions. However, through a series of transactions between November 24, 2010, and November 1, 2012, the respondent intentionally misused the remaining \$20,000 in the account for his own benefit, without the client's knowledge or approval.

In 2014, the client made repeated efforts to obtain repayment of the funds he had entrusted to the respondent. When those efforts failed, the client brought the matter to the attention of bar counsel. After the respondent became aware that bar counsel was investigating the matter, the respondent repaid the client \$20,000.

By failing to place the client's funds in a separate, interest-bearing trust account, the respondent violated Mass. R. Prof. C. 1.15(e)(5), as then in effect.

By repeatedly and intentionally misusing the client's funds for his own benefit and purposes, the respondent violated Mass. R. Prof. 1.15(b), 8.4(c), and 8.4(h).

On July 27, 2015, bar counsel filed a petition for discipline charging the respondent with the above misconduct. The respondent waived a hearing and stipulated to the factual allegations of the petition.

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

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

On March 7, 2016, the board voted unanimously to recommend that the respondent be disbarred from the practice of law. On May 19, 2016, the single justice issued an order of disbarment, effective immediately.