

**IN RE: MICHAEL J. KRANTZ****NO. BD-2015-073****S.J.C. Judgment of Disbarment entered by Justice Spina on August 10, 2015.¹****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 October 22, 1986. In December 2011, in his capacity as an attorney, the respondent agreed to assist in the transfer of 15,500 Euros, with a U.S. dollar value of approximately \$19,500, from an account maintained by his client in Lebanon to an account in the United States, and to hold the funds in escrow. Between December 2011 and about July 2012, the respondent intentionally misappropriated the escrow funds, and did not return the funds to his clients on demand and on the termination of the representation. This conduct violated the Massachusetts Rules of Professional Conduct, including, among others, Mass. R. Prof. C. 1.15(b) and (c), 1.16(d), and 8.4(c) and (h). In addition, the respondent engaged in the unauthorized practice of law in Florida, and operated a law office and used letterhead and other documents falsely identifying himself as practicing in a law firm in Florida, when he was a sole practitioner and was not licensed in Florida. This conduct violated Mass. R. Prof. C. 5.5(a), 7.1, and 7.5(a).

On October 3, 2014, bar counsel filed a petition for discipline. On July 1, 2015, the respondent filed an affidavit of resignation. On July 13, 2015, the Board of Bar Overseers voted to recommend that the affidavit of resignation be accepted and the respondent be disbarred forthwith. On August 10, 2015, 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.