VINCA L. JARRETT

Public Reprimand No. 2012-6

Order (public reprimand) entered by the Board on May 7, 2012.

SUMMARY[1]

In October 2009, bar counsel opened a complaint against the respondent and sent her correspondence requesting information. The respondent failed to respond and bar counsel followed up with two more requests. The respondent failed to send the requested information. As a consequence, she was administratively suspended by the Supreme Judicial Court on March 23, 2010. The respondent thereafter sent in a complete response and was reinstated on April 23, 2010.

Bar counsel thereafter requested additional records. The respondent failed to respond and bar counsel sent follow-up correspondence. The respondent failed to send the requested information and was again administratively suspended by the Supreme Judicial Court on June 27, 2011. The respondent was not reinstated within thirty days. As a result, the respondent was required to provide an affidavit to the Office of Bar Counsel and the county court certifying her compliance with all provisions of S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 17. The respondent failed to provide the affidavit.

On August 19, 2011, bar counsel filed a petition for discipline. The respondent at that point submitted a complete response to bar counsel's earlier requests for information, as well as an affidavit of compliance. She was reinstated on January 11, 2012. Completion of bar counsel's investigation revealed no underlying misconduct aside from the respondent's failure to cooperate.

The respondent's conduct in intentionally failing without good cause to cooperate with bar counsel's investigation violated Mass. R. Prof. C. 8.1(b) and 8.4(g). The respondent's knowing failure to comply with the order of administrative suspension and the provisions of S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 17, violated Mass. R. Prof. C. 3.4(c) and 8.4(d).

On March 20, 2012, bar counsel filed an amended petition and the respondent filed an answer admitting to the allegations and rule violations. The parties filed a stipulation agreeing

[1] Compiled by the Board of Bar Overseers based on the record of proceedings before the Board.

that the appropriate sanction was a public reprimand. On April 9, 2012, the Board of Bar Overseers voted to sanction the respondent by public reprimand.