

IN RE: RAYMOND JOSEPH HASKELL, JR.

BBO # 647880

NO. BD-2024-024

Judgment (Disbarment on Consent) entered by Justice Gaziano, on February 29, 2024.¹

SUMMARY²

The respondent, Raymond Joseph Haskell, Jr. was admitted to the bar of the Commonwealth on January 23, 2001. On March 27, 2020, the respondent's law license was suspended for two years. *See* 36 Mass. Att'y Disc. R. 243 (2020). The respondent has not been reinstated from this order of suspension.

On January 31, 2024, the respondent pleaded nolo contendere in the State of Rhode Island, Bristol County Superior Court, to the following four charges: (1) Obtaining Property By False Pretenses, in violation of R.I. Gen Laws § 11-41-4 (a felony); (2) Identity Fraud (First Offense) in violation of R.I. Gen Laws § 11-49.1-3 (a felony); (3) Forgery and Counterfeiting in violation of R.I. Gen Laws § 11-17-1 (a felony); and (4) Giving False Document to Agent, Employee of Public Official in violation of R.I. Gen Laws § 11-18-1 (a misdemeanor). These crimes were "serious" as defined by Supreme Judicial Court Rule 4:01, § 12(3). The respondent was sentenced to five years' probation and ordered to pay fines and comply with other conditions. His crimes involved the fraudulent collection of his father's pension as a police officer in the amount of \$63,479.28 after his father and mother had died.

On February 23, 2024, the respondent filed a Consent to Disbarment pursuant to S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 8(7) with the Supreme Judicial Court. In doing so, the respondent acknowledged that he was convicted of the above crimes and that, if the matter were litigated, a judgment for his disbarment would likely result based on his violations of Mass. R. Prof. C. 8.4(b) and (h). He waived formal proceedings and consented to an order of disbarment.

On February 29, 2024, the Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County (Gaziano, J.) entered a Judgment of Disbarment against the respondent.

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 Massachusetts Board of Bar Overseers' Office of General Counsel based on the record filed with the Supreme Judicial Court.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

SUFFOLK, SS.

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT
FOR SUFFOLK COUNTY
NO: BD-2024-024

IN RE: RAYMOND JOSEPH HASKELL

JUDGMENT OF DISBARMENT ON CONSENT

This matter came before the Court, Gaziano, J., on a Notice of Conviction pursuant to S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 12(9) filed by the Office of Bar Counsel on February 23, 2024. On February 27, 2024, the lawyer filed his Consent to Disbarment and waived formal proceedings in this matter as provided for in S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 8 and 8(7). Upon consideration thereof, it is ORDERED and ADJUDGED that:

1. Raymond Joseph Haskell is hereby disbarred from the practice of law in the Commonwealth effective immediately upon the entry of this Judgment, and the lawyer's name is forthwith stricken from the Roll of Attorneys.

It is FURTHER ORDERED that:

2. Within fourteen (14) days of the date of entry of this Judgment, the lawyer shall:

a) file a notice of withdrawal as of the effective

date of the disbarment with every court, agency, or tribunal before which a matter is pending, together with a copy of the notices sent pursuant to paragraphs 2(c) and 2(d) of this Judgment, the client's or clients' place of residence, and the case caption and docket number of the client's or clients' proceedings;

b) resign as of the effective date of the disbarment all appointments as guardian, executor, administrator, trustee, attorney-in-fact, or other fiduciary, attaching to the resignation a copy of the notices sent to the wards, heirs, or beneficiaries pursuant to paragraphs 2(c) and 2(d) of this Judgment, the place of residence of the wards, heirs, or beneficiaries, and the case caption and docket number of the proceedings, if any;

c) provide notice to all clients and to all wards, heirs, and beneficiaries that the lawyer has been disbarred; that he is disqualified from acting as a lawyer after the effective date of the disbarment; and that, if not represented by co-counsel, the client, ward, heir, or beneficiary should act promptly to substitute another lawyer or fiduciary or to seek legal advice elsewhere, calling attention to any urgency arising from the circumstances of the case;

d) provide notice to counsel for all parties (or, in

the absence of counsel, the parties) in pending matters that the lawyer has been disbarred and, as a consequence, is disqualified from acting as a lawyer after the effective date of the disbarment;

e) make available to all clients being represented in pending matters any papers or other property to which they are entitled, calling attention to any urgency for obtaining the papers or other property;

f) refund any part of any fees paid in advance that have not been earned; and

g) close every IOLTA, client, trust or other fiduciary account and properly disburse or otherwise transfer all client and fiduciary funds in his possession, custody or control.

All notices required by this paragraph shall be served by certified mail, return receipt requested, in a form approved by the Board.

3. Within twenty-one (21) days after the date of entry of this Judgment, the lawyer shall file with the Office of the Bar Counsel an affidavit certifying that the lawyer has fully complied with the provisions of this Judgment and with bar disciplinary rules. Appended to the affidavit of compliance shall be:

a) a copy of each form of notice, the names and

addresses of the clients, wards, heirs, beneficiaries, attorneys, courts and agencies to which notices were sent, and all return receipts or returned mail received up to the date of the affidavit. Supplemental affidavits shall be filed covering subsequent return receipts and returned mail. Such names and addresses of clients shall remain confidential unless otherwise requested in writing by the lawyer or ordered by the court;

b) a schedule showing the location, title and account number of every bank account designated as an IOLTA, client, trust or other fiduciary account and of every account in which the lawyer holds or held as of the entry date of this Judgment any client, trust or fiduciary funds;

c) a schedule describing the lawyer's disposition of all client and fiduciary funds in the lawyer's possession, custody or control as of the entry date of this Judgment or thereafter;

d) such proof of the proper distribution of such funds and the closing of such accounts as has been requested by the bar counsel, including copies of checks and other instruments;

e) a list of all other state, federal and administrative jurisdictions to which the lawyer is admitted to practice;

f) the residence or other street address where communications to the lawyer may thereafter be directed; and

g) any and all bar registration cards issued to the lawyer by the Board of Bar Overseers.

The lawyer shall retain copies of all notices sent and shall maintain complete records of the steps taken to comply with the notice requirements of S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 17.

4. Within twenty-one (21) days after the entry date of this Judgment, the lawyer shall file with the Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County:

a) a copy of the affidavit of compliance required by paragraph 3 of this Judgment;

b) a list of all other state, federal and administrative jurisdictions to which the lawyer is admitted to practice; and

c) the residence or other street address where communications to the lawyer may thereafter be directed.

By the Court, (Gaziano, J.)

/s/ Maura S. Doyle

Maura S. Doyle, Clerk

Entered: February 29, 2024