

IN RE: PAUL G. KOLESNIKOVAS

NO. BD-2020-003

**S.J.C. Judgment of Disbarment Accepting Affidavit of Resignation entered by
Justice Budd on June 23, 2020.¹**

The respondent resigned and was disbarred for intentional misuse of trust funds with deprivation and incomplete restitution.

SUMMARY²

From 2015 to November 2018, the respondent was a fiduciary, as board member and/or officer, of a non-profit animal shelter, with signatory authority over its bank account. He intentionally misused \$119,000 from the non-profit for his own purposes. He reimbursed the non-profit by intentionally misusing \$119,000 held as a trustee of a supplemental needs trust. He misused at least an additional \$166,000 from the supplemental needs trust for his own use. The respondent has “not repaid to the trust more than a small percentage of the funds ... misused.” His misconduct violated Mass. R. Prof. C. 1.15 (b)(4) (lawyer shall hold trust property separate from his own; trust property shall be appropriately safeguarded); 8.4 (c) (conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation); and 8.4 (h) (conduct adversely reflecting on fitness to practice).

The respondent submitted his affidavit of resignation in April 2020. On May 11, 2020, the Board of Bar Overseers voted to recommend that the affidavit be accepted, and that the respondent be disbarred. The Court (Budd, J.) so ordered on June 23, 2020.

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.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

SUFFOLK, SS.

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT
FOR SUFFOLK COUNTY
NO: BD-2020-003

IN RE: Paul George Kolesnikovas

JUDGMENT OF DISBARMENT
ACCEPTING AFFIDAVIT OF RESIGNATION

This matter came before the Court, Budd, J., on an Affidavit of Resignation submitted by Paul George Kolesnikovas pursuant to S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 15, with the Recommendation and Vote of the Board of Bar Overseers (Board) and a letter dated April 24, 2020, from assistant bar counsel to general counsel of the Board requesting that the affidavit of resignation be accepted and that a judgment of disbarment enter retroactive to the date of the lawyer's temporary suspension, filed by the Board on May 21, 2020. Upon consideration thereof, it is ORDERED and ADJUDGED that:

The Affidavit of Resignation be, and hereby is accepted and that Paul George Kolesnikovas is hereby disbarred from the practice of law in the Commonwealth retroactive to February 18, 2020, and the lawyer's name is forthwith stricken from the Roll of Attorneys.

By the Court, (Budd, J.)

Assistant Clerk

Entered: June 23, 2020