

**IN RE: KAMAH GUEH-THORONKA**

**BBO # 664000**

**NO. BD-2021-044**

**Order (Indefinite Suspension) entered by Justice Lowy on September**

**20, 2021.<sup>1</sup>**

**SUMMARY<sup>2</sup>**

The respondent, Kamah Gueh-Thoronka, is an attorney duly admitted to the Bar of the Commonwealth on November 29, 2005, and also admitted to practice in the State of Maryland. The respondent was suspended for an indefinite period of time by the Court of Appeals of Maryland on May 20, 2021. On September 20, 2021, the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts issued an Order reciprocally suspending the respondent for an indefinite period retroactive to May 20, 2021, the effective date of the respondent's suspension in Maryland.

The respondent's Maryland suspension was based on her failing to represent a client competently and diligently, failing to adequately communicate with her client, failing to communicate the scope of the representation and the basis or rate of the fee and expenses for which her client would be responsible before or within a reasonable time after commencing the representation, failing to safeguard client funds in an attorney trust account, engaging in conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice, and failing to comply with attorney trust account record-keeping requirements. The respondent represented a client in multiple legal matters over a period of several years and, among other issues, was unable to account accurately for rent payments she collected from a tenant on behalf of her client, a portion of which was used to pay her fees.

On July 29, 2021, bar counsel filed a petition for reciprocal discipline. The respondent waived hearing and assented to the entry of an order of discipline. On September 20, 2021, the Court issued an order suspending the respondent for an indefinite period from the practice of law in Massachusetts, with reinstatement conditioned on the respondent's reinstatement in Maryland.

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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 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-2021-044

IN RE: Kamah Gueh-Thoronka

ORDER OF INDEFINITE SUSPENSION

This matter came before the Court, Lowy, J., on a Petition for Reciprocal Discipline pursuant to S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 16 and an order entered in the Court of Appeals in Maryland filed by the Office of Bar Counsel on July 29, 2021.

On July 30, 2021, an Order of Notice issued and was served on the lawyer in the manner specified in S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 21, directing the lawyer to file an answer within thirty (30) days of service, why the identical discipline, if imposed in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts would be unwarranted. The parties on September 17, 2021, filed a waiver of hearing and assent to the entry of order, with the effective date retroactive to May 20, 2021.

Upon consideration thereof, it is ORDERED that:

1. Kamah Gueh-Thoronka is hereby suspended from the practice of law in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for an indefinite period retroactive to May 20, 2021, the effective date of the suspension in Maryland.

It is FURTHER ORDERED that:

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9/20/2021 2:10 PM  
MAURA S. DOYLE, CLERK  
SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT  
THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

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

a) file a notice of withdrawal 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 Order, the client's or clients' place of residence, and the case caption and docket number of the client's or clients' proceedings;

b) resign 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 Order, 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 suspended; that she is disqualified from acting as a lawyer; 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 suspended and, as a consequence, is disqualified

from acting as a lawyer;

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 her 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 Order, 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 Order 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 Order 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 Order 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 Order, 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 Order;

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.

5. The lawyer's reinstatement to the practice of law in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will be conditioned on her reinstatement to the practice of law in Maryland.

By the Court, (Lowy, J.)

/s/ Maura S. Doyle

Maura S. Doyle, Clerk

Entered: September 20, 2021