## **WOOSEOK CHANG**

#### BBO # 233880

# **Public Reprimand No. 2022-3**

Order (Public Reprimand) entered by the Massachusetts Board of Bar Overseers of the Supreme Judicial Court on March 2, 2022

The Board ordered a Public Reprimand for varied misconduct related to the respondent's IOLTA record keeping, advertising, and lack of a written fee agreement in one civil matter.

## **SUMMARY**<sup>1</sup>

The respondent was charged with misconduct in a three-count petition for discipline. In the first count, the respondent agreed to represent a client in a personal injury case for a flat fee. He failed to provide a writing describing the scope of the representation and the basis or rate of the fee and expenses. This conduct violated Mass. R. Prof. C. 1.5(b)(1).

The second count involved the respondent's advertising. The respondent is a solo practitioner, and he does not employ any other attorneys, but he did business under the name "Chang & Associates," and his letterhead and website referred to the firm's multiple "attorneys." This conduct violated Mass. R. Prof. C. 7.1 and 7.5(d).

The third count involved the respondent's IOLTA record keeping. The respondent maintained three IOLTA accounts between December 2017 and November 2020. During this time, the respondent failed to perform three-way reconciliation of these accounts by comparing his check register, adjusted bank statement and his client matter balances. Additionally, some entries on the respondent's check register did not identify the client matter. The respondent's records also indicated three occasions between 2013 and September 2017 on which he disbursed small amounts on behalf of clients that he had not yet received into his IOLTA account, thereby creating temporary negative balances for those clients. This conduct violated Mass. R. Prof. C. 1.15(f)(1)(E), 1.15(f)(1)(B), and 1.15(f)(1)(C).

The parties stipulated to a public reprimand for the misconduct. By vote dated February 14, 2022, the Board of Bar Overseers voted to impose a public reprimand.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Compiled by the Massachusetts Board of Bar Overseers' Office of General Counsel based on the record of proceedings before the board.



### COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF BAR OVERSEERS OF THE SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

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Public Reprimand No. 2022-3

#### ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

This matter came before the Board on a Petition for Discipline and a Stipulation of the Parties waiving hearing and requesting that the matter be resolved by the imposition of a public reprimand. On February 14, 2022, the Board voted to accept the stipulation of the parties and their joint recommendation. It is ORDERED and ADJUDGED that Wooseok Chang be and he is publicly reprimanded. A summary of the charges giving rise to the reprimand is attached to this order.

Whereupon, pursuant to Supreme Judicial Court Rule 4:01, Section 8(3), and the Rules of the Board of Bar Overseers, Section 3.56, it is ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that Wooseok Chang, be and hereby is PUBLICLY REPRIMANDED.

BY: /s/ Frank E. Hill, III Member, BOARD OF BAR OVERSEERS

DATED: March 2, 2022