

IN RE: MORRIS M. GOLDINGS

S. J. C. Judgment of Disbarment entered by Justice Spina on April 17, 2002.¹

SUMMARY²

This matter came before the Court on the respondent's affidavit of resignation pursuant to Supreme Judicial Court Rule 4:01, § 15.

The respondent was temporarily suspended from the practice of law pending further disciplinary proceedings on February 8, 2001. On February 21, 2002, he pled guilty and was convicted in the U.S. District Court (Massachusetts) of seven counts of mail fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341 & 2; five counts of wire fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343 & 2; and thirteen counts of money laundering, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(1)(b), all arising out of eleven cases or matters.

Specifically, the criminal information to which the respondent pled guilty charged him with obtaining money from clients, professional and business acquaintances, and others "for the falsely-stated purpose of legal representation, investment, and/or concealing sums from law enforcement or tax authorities." He also converted fees payable to his law firm. In this manner, the respondent "falsely and fraudulently obtained or diverted from their proper use approximately \$17,000,000, which moneys were used to pay debts for personal taxes, personal loans, and failed investments, or to repay moneys previously taken from client estate and investment accounts."

The crimes to which the respondent pled guilty are felonies and thus are "serious crimes" as defined by Supreme Judicial Court Rule 4:01, §12(3). As to conduct prior to January 1, 1998, the conduct of the respondent was in violation of S.J.C. Rule 3:07, Canon One, Disciplinary Rule 1-102(A)(4),(6) and Canon Nine, Disciplinary Rule 9-102(A)-(C). As to conduct on and after January 1, 1998, the conduct of the respondent was in violation of Supreme Judicial Court Rule 3:07, Mass. R. Prof. C. 8.4(b),(c),(h) and Mass. R. Prof. C. 1.15(a)-(d).

On March 15, 2002, the respondent submitted his affidavit of resignation from the practice of law. The affidavit admitted that the materials facts upon which the statement of disciplinary charges was predicated were true. On April 8, 2002, the Board of Bar Overseers voted to recommend that the affidavit of resignation be accepted and that an order of disbarment be entered. The Court so ordered on April 17, 2002.

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 before the Court.