

IN RE: JEFFREY L. HOFFMAN

S.J.C. Judgment of Disbarment entered by Justice Spina on November 27, 2007.¹

SUMMARY²

The respondent intentionally misused mortgage loan proceeds that were earmarked to pay for title insurance and has not made restitution in full. The respondent also caused an employee to forge another attorney's signature on six title policies without that attorney's knowledge or authority.

The respondent did not cooperate with an investigation of bar counsel, resulting in his administrative suspension. The respondent then did not comply with the terms of his suspension. The respondent is still registered with an office in Hingham. It is known that the respondent is in fact in California and has long abandoned his office. The respondent had also been told of the obligation to change his registered address, but failed to do so.

The respondent's conduct in intentionally misappropriating trust funds for personal or business purposes and in failing to promptly deliver to a third party the funds that the third party was entitled to receive, all with intent to deprive and actual deprivation resulting, was in violation of Mass. R. Prof. C. 1.15(b) and (c) and Mass. R. Prof. C. 8.4(c).

The respondent's conduct in forging or causing the forgery of a title insurance policy and then causing the policy to be transmitted to the title insurance carrier knowing that the policy was a forgery, was in violation of Mass. R. Prof. C. 4.1 and 8.4(c).

The respondent's conduct in failing to cooperate with an investigation of bar counsel and failing to comply with the terms of his administrative suspension was in violation of Mass. R. Prof. C. 8.4(d), (g) and (h), and S.J.C. Rule 4:01 § 3.

On May 25, 2007, bar counsel filed a petition for discipline against the respondent. The respondent failed to file an answer to the petition or otherwise to cooperate in the disciplinary process and, pursuant to S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 8(3), the allegations were therefore deemed admitted. On September 11, 2007, the Board of Bar Overseers voted to recommend to the court that the respondent be disbarred. On November 27, 2007, the Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County so ordered.

FOOTNOTES:

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 Supreme Judicial Court.

