

IN RE: PETER ANTHONY LAGORIO

NO. BD-2012-101

S.J.C. Judgment of Disbarment entered by Justice Cordy on October 16, 2012.¹

SUMMARY²

This matter came before the Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County on an affidavit of resignation submitted by the respondent and a recommendation of the Board of Bar Overseers that the affidavit of resignation be accepted and a judgment of disbarment be entered. In the affidavit of resignation, the respondent admitted that bar counsel could prove by a preponderance of the evidence that he had converted client funds over a period of time. In addition, he admitted that bar counsel could prove by a preponderance of the evidence the following facts.

The respondent represented plaintiffs in class actions lawsuits. In this capacity, he collected settlement funds on behalf of plaintiffs. He intentionally misappropriated funds from these settlements and repeatedly used funds from subsequent cases to pay off other obligations owed on earlier cases. The net result was that the balance in the respondent's IOLTA account was approximately \$450,000 short of the amount that should have been on deposit. His conduct in these respects violated Mass. R. Prof. C. 1.15(b) and (c) and Mass. R. Prof. C. 8.4(c) and (h).

On July 25, 2012, the respondent submitted an affidavit of resignation pursuant to S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 15. Bar counsel recommended that the affidavit of resignation be accepted and a judgment of disbarment be entered.

On September 10, 2012, the Board of Bar Overseers voted to adopt bar counsel's recommendation. On October 16, 2012, the Supreme Judicial Court entered a judgment accepting the affidavit of resignation and disbaring the respondent from the practice of law effective immediately.

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.