



The
DISCIPLINARY BOARD
of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

Case Research Collection

User Manual

Case Research Collection

User Manual

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I. Introduction

A. What Is the Case Research Collection?

The Case Research Collection (CRC) is an online database of the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania's past discipline, making available case information and documents. Entries from January 2016 through the present are included in the CRC. Users are welcome to browse the collection or to utilize a wide variety of search criteria to narrow findings.

To access the Case Research Collection, visit padisciplinaryboard.org/cases/case-research-collection.

B. What is available to users?

All entries in the CRC provide a basic set of information, including keywords, rule violations, and disposition. Differing documents are also available for each type of matter.

Private Discipline: For discipline matters resulting in a sanction of informal admonition or private reprimand, a summary of discipline is provided, but documents and identifying information remain confidential.

Public Discipline: For discipline matters resulting in a sanction of public reprimand, public censure, suspension, or disbarment, the CRC provides Board reports as well as Board and Supreme Court orders and opinions. When appropriate, a joint petition in support of discipline on consent may be provided in place of a Board report. Other confidential documents, including some resignation statements, are not publicly available and are not included in the CRC.

Reinstatements: In reinstatement matters, the CRC provides Board reports as well as Supreme Court orders and opinions.

II. Navigating the Search Form

A. General Search Criteria

Once logged into the CRC, users are able to search and browse case entries based on a variety of criteria. For digestibility, the search form has been broken into three main sections. The first section – “General Search” – is comprised of the following fields: first name, middle name, last name, and suffix. Users may also search cases by county and by accessibility (i.e. only public discipline, only private discipline, or both).

It is important to note that fields which would provide identifying information, including name and county, will not yield results for private discipline. Searching via keyword(s) may prove most useful in this situation. Searching via keyword(s) is detailed on page 4.



The screenshot displays the search interface for 'The Case Research Collection'. At the top left is the logo of 'The DISCIPLINARY BOARD of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania'. The main heading is 'The Case Research Collection'. Below this is the 'General Search' section, which contains the following elements:

- First Name:** A text input field with the placeholder 'First Name'.
- Middle Name:** A text input field with the placeholder 'Middle Name'.
- Last Name:** A text input field with the placeholder 'Last Name'.
- Suffix:** A text input field with the placeholder 'Sr., Jr.'.
- County:** A dropdown menu with the placeholder text 'Start typing or select a county...' and a downward arrow.
- Public or Private Case:** Three buttons: 'Both' (highlighted in blue), 'Only Public', and 'Only Private'.

B. Searching by Rules

Below the “General Search,” users will find that they can also search cases by relevant rules. The first drop-down menu on the left allows users to choose from three sources of disciplinary authority: *The Rules of Professional Conduct* (R.P.C.), *The Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement* (Pa.R.D.E.), and *The Disciplinary Board Rules and Procedures* (D. Bd. Rules). After selecting a rule book, users may choose a rule and paragraph, respectively, from the next two drop-down menus.

Suffix
Sr., Jr.

Search By Rules

Select a Rule Book
Start typing or select a book...

Select a Rule
Type or search...

Select a Paragraph
Type or search...

Keywords
Start typing words assorted with case

+ Show Additional Fields

SEARCH

CLEAR FORM

C. Searching by Keyword(s)

Users may also choose to search by a keyword or keywords. Click within the designated search bar to begin typing a keyword or to browse all available keywords. It is important to note that this search function will only respond to keywords from the dropdown menu. Users may begin typing a term as a means of locating a keyword more quickly, but users cannot insert their own keywords manually into the field. *Please see the appendix for a full list of searchable keywords.*

Select a Rule Book
Start typing or select a book...

Select a Rule
Type or search...

Select a Paragraph
Type or search...

Keywords
Start typing words assorted with case

- Abandoned Law Practice
- Abandonment of Clients
- Abuse
- Acceptance of Responsibility
- Access Device Fraud
- Addiction
- Administrative Suspension

The DISCIPLINARY BOARD
of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

FOR ATTORNEYS
Rules

NEWS & MEDIA

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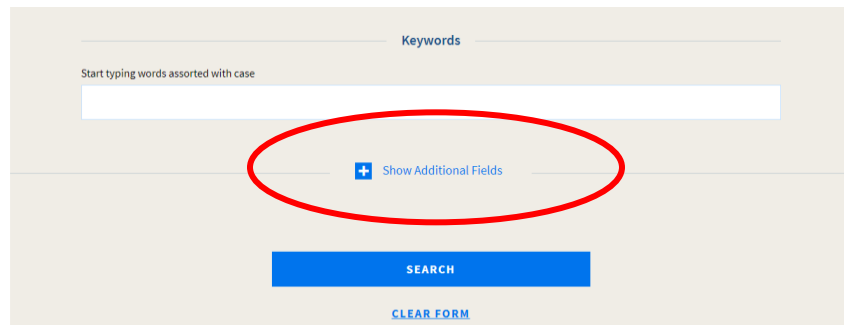
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D. Additional Search Fields

To access additional search fields, click on “Search Additional Fields” found below the “Keywords” search bar (A). Additional fields include attorney registration number, case number, disposition type, decision and effective dates, and more (B). Searching for private discipline via attorney registration number will not yield results; searching via keyword(s) may prove most useful in this situation.

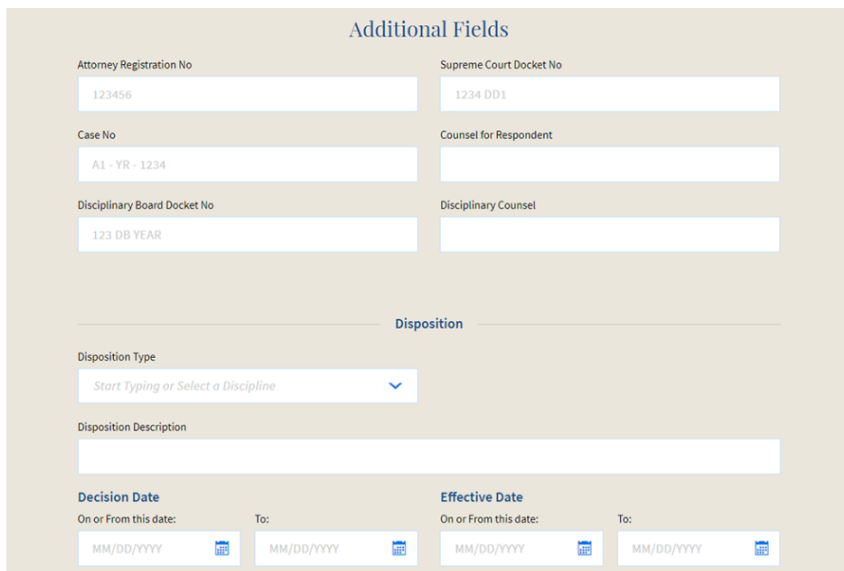
One common search in the “Disposition Description” field (B) is “On Consent”. This search will further narrow your results to cases in which a joint petition was granted by the Board or Court.

(A)



The screenshot shows a search interface with a 'Keywords' section. Below the search bar, there is a button labeled '+ Show Additional Fields' which is circled in red. Below this button is a blue 'SEARCH' button and a link for 'CLEAR FORM'.

(B)



The screenshot shows the 'Additional Fields' search interface. It includes several input fields: 'Attorney Registration No' (123456), 'Supreme Court Docket No' (1234 DD1), 'Case No' (A1 - YR - 1234), 'Counsel for Respondent', 'Disciplinary Board Docket No' (123 DB YEAR), and 'Disciplinary Counsel'. Below these is a 'Disposition' section with a 'Disposition Type' dropdown menu and a 'Disposition Description' text area. At the bottom, there are 'Decision Date' and 'Effective Date' sections, each with 'On or From this date:' and 'To:' fields and calendar icons.

III. Viewing and Sorting Search Results

After selecting search criteria, click the blue “Search” button to view the results. Users are able to sort the results by the following: disposition date (newest first), disposition date (oldest first), last name (ascending), and last name (descending). Click on the blue “View Case” button to access further details of a particular case.

The screenshot displays the search results interface for The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. At the top left is the board's logo. The main header shows "27 Results" with a subtext "(Searching by 6 parameters)". To the right of the results count are two links: "Edit Search Criteria" and "Start A New Search". A dropdown menu is highlighted with a red circle, showing "Last Name (Ascending)" as the selected sorting option. Below the header, two case entries are listed. Each entry includes the name of the attorney, their registration number, county, disciplinary board docket number, disposition, and date of disposition. A blue "VIEW CASE" button is located to the right of each case entry.

Name	Attorney Registration No.	County	Disciplinary Board Docket No.	Disposition	Date of Disposition	Action
Barnett, Peter P.	73120	Philadelphia	175 DB 2018	Suspension	05/20/2019	VIEW CASE
Boston, Tangie M.	86375	Philadelphia	99 DB 2018	Suspension	02/12/2020	VIEW CASE

IV. Reading Case Entries

A. Overview of Case Details

A case entry is comprised of a variety of informative details. Due to the varying natures of CRC cases, not all data fields will be complete for every case. However, every public case entry will include the respondent's name, registration number, and county, as well as the case number, disposition, date of decision, effective date, and disciplinary counsel. Every private case entry will include the case number, disposition, date of decision, and effective date. Other details may include rule violations, relevant keywords, and more. See the sample entry below.

[RETURN TO RESULTS LIST](#) Results 1 of 1

Ashton, John Joseph, III

Attorney Registration No. 309909	County Philadelphia	Case No. C1-18-643; C1-18-852; C1-18-854; C1-18-975	Date Of Decision 7/27/2020
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Disciplinary Board Docket No. 67 DB 2019	Supreme Court Docket No. 2725 DD3	Disciplinary Counsel Rubin, Elizabeth J.
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Counsel for Respondent

Disposition Suspension	Rule Violations R.P.C. 1.1 R.P.C. 1.16 (d) R.P.C. 1.3 R.P.C. 1.4 (a) R.P.C. 1.4 (b) R.P.C. 3.2
Disposition Description 2 years	
Date Effective 8/26/2020	

Case Summary

Board report or Recommendation View Report	Order/Opinion View Order/Opinion
---	---

Associated Keywords
Suspension, Neglect, Failure to Communicate, Abandonment of Clients, Failure to Return Files, Failure to Cooperate with ODC, Failure to Appear

[Printer Friendly](#)

B. Available Documents

Entries may also offer varying documents such as a Board or Court order, Board report, joint petition for discipline, resignation statement, or Board or Court opinion. If available for a given case, documents are linked as PDFs. Confidential documents, often resignation statements, are not included in the CRC.

Breen, Ryan D.

Attorney Registration No. 318069	County Allegheny	Case No. C4-19-158	Date Of Decision 11/9/2020
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Disciplinary Board Docket No. 134 DB 2020	Supreme Court Docket No. 2757 DD3	Disciplinary Counsel Napoli, Samuel F.
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Counsel for Respondent
Breen, David V.

Disposition Suspension	Rule Violations R.P.C. 8.4 (b) R.P.C. 8.4 (c)
----------------------------------	---

Disposition Description
1 year and 1 day on consent

Date Effective
12/9/2020

Case Summary

Board report or Recommendation View Report	Order/Opinion View Order/Opinion
---	---

C. Printing an Entry

Users may wish to print an entry from the CRC. A link to a printer-friendly view of a case entry can be found below the attached case documents and relevant keywords. This view will open in a new tab and will allow users to print a copy that is free of banners and other page imagery.

Board report or Recommendation View Report	Order/Opinion View Order/Opinion
---	---

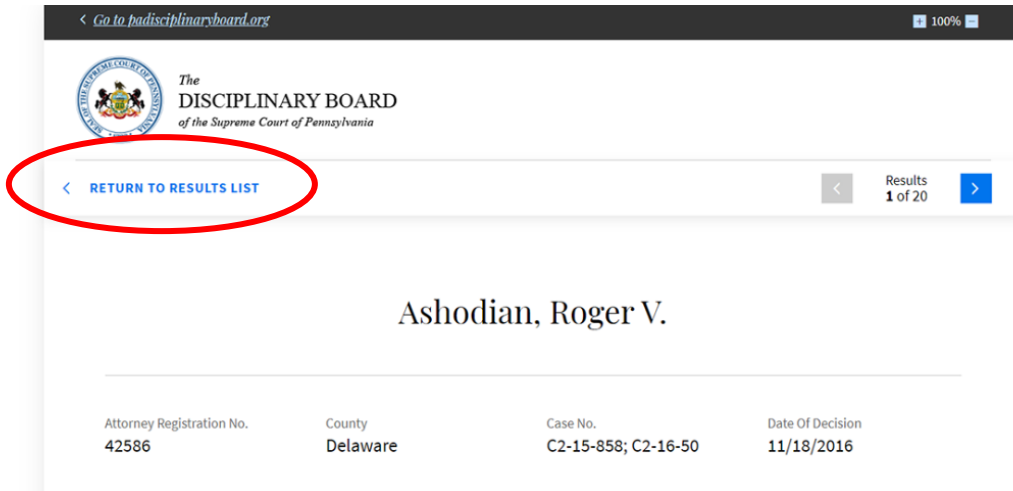
Associated Keywords
Suspension, Client Neglect, Failure to Communicate, Aggravating Factors, Mitigating Factors

[Printer Friendly](#)

V. Editing Search Criteria vs. Starting a New Search

To return to the search results, click the prompt in the upper left-hand corner (A). Once returned to the results list, a user may choose to continue browsing via the chosen criteria or may wish to view results under different criteria. There are two options for selecting new criteria (B). The “Edit Search Criteria” feature uses the existing criteria as a starting point and allows the user to remove one criterion at a time or to add a new one. If the user plans to search for cases using entirely new criteria, “Start a New Search” is a quicker way of doing so.

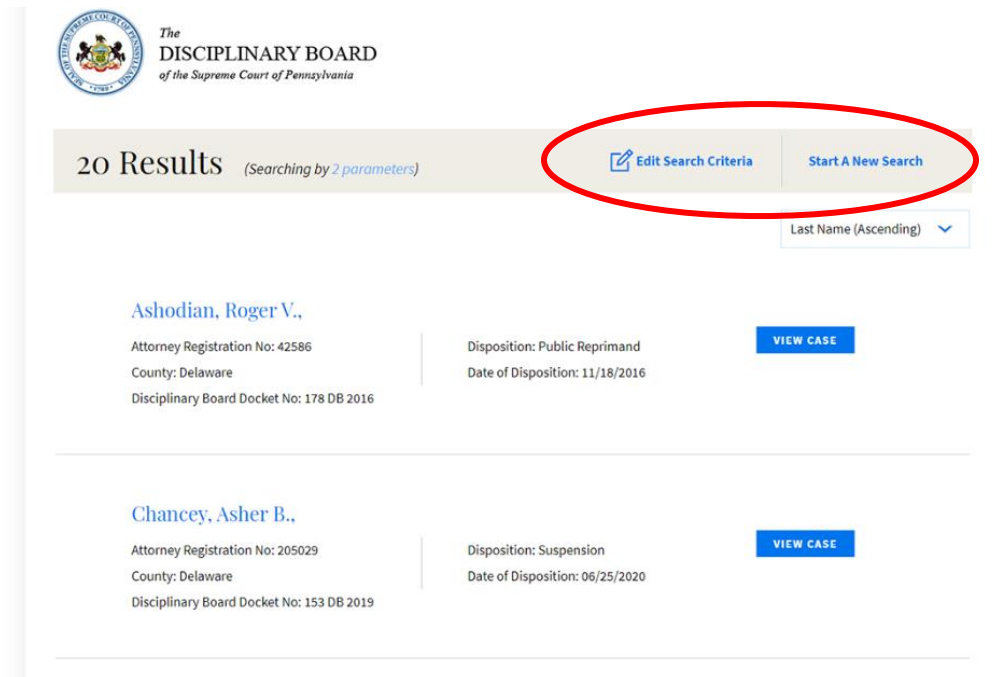
(A)



The screenshot shows the website for The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. At the top left, there is a navigation bar with a back arrow and the text "Go to pdisciplinaryboard.org". Below this is the board's logo and name. A red circle highlights a blue button labeled "RETURN TO RESULTS LIST" with a left-pointing arrow. To the right of this button is a "Results 1 of 20" indicator with left and right arrows. Below the navigation is the name "Ashodian, Roger V." and a table of case details:

Attorney Registration No.	County	Case No.	Date Of Decision
42586	Delaware	C2-15-858; C2-16-50	11/18/2016

(B)



The screenshot shows the search results page for The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. It displays "20 Results (Searching by 2 parameters)". A red circle highlights two buttons: "Edit Search Criteria" (with a pencil icon) and "Start A New Search". Below the buttons is a dropdown menu set to "Last Name (Ascending)". The results list includes:

- Ashodian, Roger V.,**
Attorney Registration No: 42586
County: Delaware
Disciplinary Board Docket No: 178 DB 2016
Disposition: Public Reprimand
Date of Disposition: 11/18/2016
[VIEW CASE](#)
- Chancey, Asher B.,**
Attorney Registration No: 205029
County: Delaware
Disciplinary Board Docket No: 153 DB 2019
Disposition: Suspension
Date of Disposition: 06/25/2020
[VIEW CASE](#)

Appendix A: Searchable Keywords in the Case Research Collection (Listed Alphabetically)

Updated December 21, 2022

A

Abandoned Law Practice
Abandonment of Clients
Abuse
Acceptance of Responsibility
Access Device Fraud
Addiction
Administrative Suspension
Admission of Wrongdoing
Advertising
Aggravating Factors
Aiding and Abetting
Alcohol
Altered Records
Arson
Assault
Attempted Murder
Attorney Registration

B

Bad Checks
Bankruptcy
Bar Application
Belated Cooperation
Braun
Breach of Duty
Breached Confidentiality
Bribery
Burden
Burden Not Met
Burglary

C

Cavalier Attitude
Character Witness
Child Pornography
Civil Rights
Client Neglect
Cocaine
Collateral Estoppel
Commingling
Communication
Community Service
Community Support
Competence
Competent Representation

Condition
Conduct During Suspension Period
Confidentiality
Conflict of Interest
Conspiracy
Contact with a Minor
Contempt
Controlled Substance
Conversion
Converted Trust Funds
Cooperation
Corporate Counsel
Corruption of Minors
Court Orders
Criminal Conduct
Criminal Conviction
Criminal Mischief

D

Deceit
Declining/Terminating Representation
Depressive Disorder
Diligence
Disability – General
Disbarment
Disciplinary Board
Disgorge Fee
Dishonest Conduct
Dishonesty
Disorderly Conduct
Disregard for Disciplinary Proceedings
Disruption
Disruptive Conduct
Drug Paraphernalia
DUI/DWI

E

Embezzlement
Estate Funds for Personal Use
Ethical Violations
Ex Parte
Excessive Fees
Expediting Litigation
Extortion

F

Fabricated Documents
Failed to List an Operating Account
Failure to Accept Responsibility
Failure to Appear
Failure to Communicate
Failure to Comply
Failure to Cooperate with ODC
Failure to Disclose
Failure to File a Complaint
Failure to File Statement of Compliance
Failure to Keep Client Informed
Failure to Keep Required Records
Failure to List an Operating Account
Failure to Make Restitution
Failure to Pay Withheld Employment Taxes
Failure to Present Character Evidence
Failure to Produce Records
Failure to Provide Written Fee Agreement
Failure to Recuse
Failure to Report Conviction
Failure to Respond to ODC
Failure to Return Files
Failure to Supervise
False Campaign Reports
False Statements
False Testimony
Fee Agreement
Fee Dispute
Filed in Incorrect Court
Filed Meritless Civil Action
Firearm
Fiscal Irresponsibility
Fitness to Practice
Forgery
Fraud
Frivolous
Frivolous Pleadings

G

Gambling

H

Harassment
Health Problems
Hostile

I

Immigration
Inadequate Record Keeping

Inappropriate Communications
Incompetence
Independent Contractors
Ineffective Assistance of Counsel
Insider Trading
Insufficient Rehabilitation
Insufficient Time Passed
Intentional Prevarication
Intimidation
Isolated Incident

J

Judge
Judgments and Liens
Judicial Candidate
Judicial Officer

K

Keller
Kids for Cash

L

Lack of Candor
Lack of Competent Representation
Lack of Cooperation
Lack of Credibility
Lack of Diligence
Lack of Moral Qualifications
Lack of Remorse
Law Firm
Learning in the Law

M

Mail Fraud
Manslaughter
Marijuana
Meritorious Claims
Misappropriation
Misconduct
Mishandling
Misleading
Mismanagement of Client Funds
Mismanagement of IOLTA Account
Misrepresentation
Mitigating Factors
Money Laundering
Moral Qualifications
Murder
Mutilation of Government Records

N

Neglect
 No Prior Discipline
 Nonlawyer Employee

O

Obstruction
 Outstanding Debts

P

Passport Fraud
 Pension Fund Fraud
 Perjury
 Pervasive Misconduct
 Political Corruption
 Pornography
 Practice in Federal Court
 Practice Monitor
 Prejudicial to the Administration of Justice
 Prior Discipline
 Probation
 Professional Liability Insurance
 Prohibited Financial Dealings
 Promoting Prostitution
 Prompt Distribution
 Prosecutor
 Psychological Problems
 Public Official

Q

R

Racketeering
 Receiving Stolen Property
 Recklessly Endangering
 Record Keeping
 Rehabilitation
 Reinstatement
 Remorse
 Restitution
 Ruling Reversed

S

Safeguard Fiduciary Funds
 Sanctions

Seeking to Influence a Judge
 Self-Dealing
 Self-Reported
 Sexual Abuse
 Sexual Contact with a Client
 Sharing Legal Fees
 Sobriety Monitor
 Social Media
 Solicitation
 Stalking
 Statutory Sexual Assault
 Suspension

T

Tax Evasion
 Terms Modified
 Theft
 Therapy
 Trespassing
 Tribunal

U

Unauthorized Practice of Law
 Unearned Fees
 Unintentional Violation
 Unlawful Campaign Contributions
 Unwanted and Inappropriate Advances

V

Violation of Probation

W

Wasted Resources
 Wire Fraud
 Witness Tampering
 Written Agreement

X

Y

Z

Appendix B: Searchable Keywords in the Case Research Collection (Listed by Topic)

Updated December 21, 2022

AGGRAVATING FACTORS

Abandoned Law Practice
Attorney Registration
Cavalier Attitude
Disregard for Disciplinary Proceedings
District Attorney
Failure to Accept Responsibility
Failure to Appear
Failure to Comply
Failure to Cooperate with ODC
Failure to Disclose
Failure to File Statement of Compliance
Failure to Present Character Evidence
Failure to Produce Records
Failure to Report Conviction
Failure to Respond to ODC
Judge
Judgments and Liens
Judicial Candidate
Judicial Officer
Lack of Candor
Lack of Cooperation
Lack of Credibility
Lack of Remorse
Misrepresentation to Hearing Committee
Prior Arrests
Prior Discipline
Prosecutor
Public Official
Wasted Resources

BRAUN

ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder)
Addiction
Alcohol
Bipolar Disorder
Causal Connection
Cocaine
Depressive Disorder
Disability-General
Expert Witness
Fitness
Practice Monitor
Probation
Psychological Problems
Tribunal

Unfit to Practice

CLIENT FUNDS

Commingling
Conversion
Converted Trust Funds
Dishonest Conduct
Estate Funds for Personal Use
Excessive Fees
Fiscal Irresponsibility
Inadequate Record Keeping
Misappropriation
Mismanagement of Client Funds
Mismanagement of IOLTA Account
Prohibited Financial Dealings
Recordkeeping
Safeguard Fiduciary Funds
Self-Dealing
Unearned Fees

CLIENT NEGLECT

Abandoned Clients
Breach of Duty
Failure to Communicate
Failure to File a Complaint
Failure to Keep Client Informed
Failure to Keep Required Records
Failure to Provide Written Fee Agreement
Failure to Return Files
False Statements
Filed in Incorrect Court
Incompetence
Lack of Competent Representation
Lack of Diligence
Misrepresentation
Neglect
Prejudicial to the Administration of Justice
Professional Liability Insurance
Prompt Distribution
Unearned Fees

CRIMINAL CONVICTION

Abuse
Access Device Fraud
Accessory After the Fact
Aiding and Abetting

Arson
Assault
Attempted Murder
Bribery
Burglary
Child Pornography
Civil Rights
Conspiracy
Contact with a Minor
Contempt
Controlled Substance
Corruption of Minors
Criminal Conduct
Criminal Convictions
Criminal Mischief
Disorderly Conduct
DUI/DWI
Drug Paraphernalia
Embezzlement
Failure to File Tax Returns
False Campaign Reports
False Reports
False Statements
Forgery
Fraud
Gambling
Harassment
Homicide by Vehicle
Income Tax
Indecent Assault
Insider Trading
Kids for Cash
Leaving Scene of an Accident
Mail Fraud
Manslaughter
Marijuana
Misleading
Misprision of Felony
Money Laundering
Murder
Mutilation of Government Records
Passport Fraud
Pension Fund Fraud
Perjury
Political Corruption
Pornography
Possession with Intent to Deliver
Promoting Prostitution
Racketeering

Receiving Stolen Property
Recklessly Endangering
Retail Theft
Sexual Abuse
Solicitation
Stalking
Statutory Sexual Assault
Tax Evasion
Theft
Trespassing
Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle
Unlawful Campaign Contributions
Wire Fraud
Witness Tampering

DISCIPLINE

Concurrent
Condition
Consecutive
Deterrence
Retroactive

MITIGATING FACTORS

Acceptance of Responsibility
Admission of Wrongdoing
Belated Cooperation
Braun
Causal Connection
Character Witness
Community Activities
Cooperation
Isolated Incident
No Prior Discipline
Remorse
Reputation
Restitution
Self-Reported
Therapy
Unintentional Violation

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Advertising
Altered Records
Attorney Registration
Bankruptcy
Bar Application
Civil Rights
Collateral Estoppel
Communication

Confidentiality
Conflict of Interest
Contempt
Court Orders
Deceit
Declining/Terminating Representation
Disgorge Fee
Dishonesty
Disrupt
Disruptive Conduct
Ethical Violations
Ex Parte
Expediting Litigation
Fabricated Documents
Failure to Pay Withheld Employment Taxes
Failure to Recuse
Failure to Supervise
Fee Agreement
Fee Dispute
Filed Meritless Civil Action
Frivolous Pleadings
Hostile
Immigration
Inappropriate Communications
Independent Contractors
Ineffective Assistance of Counsel
Intentional Prevarication
Intimidation
Law Firm
Meritorious Claims
Misconduct
Nonlawyer Employee
Operating Account
Outstanding Debts
Pervasive Misconduct
Practice in Federal Court
Prejudicial to Bar Admission Assessment
Sanctions
Seeking to Influence a Judge
Sexual Contact with a Client
Social Media
Support
Tribunal
Unwanted and Inappropriate Advances
Written Agreement

REINSTATEMENT

Burden
Burden Not Met

Community Service
Community Support
Competence
Conduct During Suspension Period
Disbarment
Expert Opinion
Failure to Make Restitution
False Testimony
Financial Problems
Fitness to Practice
Forever Barred From Practice
Insufficient Rehabilitation
Insufficient Time Passed
Judgments and Liens
Keller
Lack of Moral Qualifications
Learning in the Law
Moral Qualifications
Omissions
Rehabilitation
Ruling Reversed
Sobriety Monitor
Suspension
Violation of Probation

UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW

Administrative Suspension
Corporate Counsel
Inactive Status
Letterhead
Nameplate
Non-Lawyer Entity
Practice in Federal Court
Sharing Legal Fees