



*The*  
**DISCIPLINARY BOARD**  
*of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania*

# **Case Research Collection**

## **User Manual**

# Case Research Collection

## User Manual

### I. Introduction

- A. What Is the Case Research Collection?
- B. What Is Available to Users?

### II. Navigating the Search Form

- A. General Search Criteria
- B. Searching by Rules
- C. Searching by Keyword(s)
- D. Additional Search Fields

### III. Viewing and Sorting Search Results

### IV. Reading Case Entries

- A. Overview of Case Details
- B. Available Documents
- C. Printing an Entry

### V. Editing Search Criteria vs. Starting a New Search

### **Appendix A: Case Research Collection List of Keywords (Listed Alphabetically)**

### **Appendix B: Case Research Collection List of Keywords (Listed by Topic)**

## 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](http://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 'The Case Research Collection' search interface. At the top left is the seal of the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. The title 'The Case Research Collection' is centered in a large blue font. Below it, the 'General Search' section is titled. The form includes input fields for 'First Name', 'Middle Name', 'Last Name', and 'Suffix'. To the right of these fields is a 'County' dropdown menu with the placeholder text 'Start typing or select a county...'. Below the name fields are three buttons: 'Both', 'Only Public', and 'Only Private', which are used to filter results by case type.

## 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.

The screenshot shows a search interface with a 'Suffix' field at the top containing 'Sr., Jr.'. Below it is a section titled 'Search By Rules'. This section contains three dropdown menus: 'Select a Rule Book' (with placeholder text 'Start typing or select a book...'), 'Select a Rule' (with placeholder text 'Type or search...'), and 'Select a Paragraph' (with placeholder text 'Type or search...'). These are separated by plus signs. Below these is a 'Keywords' section with a text input field and placeholder text 'Start typing words assorted with case'. A 'Show Additional Fields' link with a plus icon is located below the keywords field. At the bottom of the form are two buttons: a blue 'SEARCH' button and a blue 'CLEAR FORM' link.

## 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.*

This screenshot shows the 'Keywords' section of the search interface. The text input field is active, and a dropdown menu is open, displaying a list of searchable keywords. The keywords listed are: 'Abandoned Law Practice', 'Abandonment of Clients', 'Abuse', 'Acceptance of Responsibility', 'Access Device Fraud', 'Addiction', and 'Administrative Suspension'. The first item, 'Abandoned Law Practice', is highlighted in blue. The footer of the page is visible, showing the logo of 'The DISCIPLINARY BOARD of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania', links for 'FOR ATTORNEYS', 'NEWS & MEDIA', a 'Newsletter Sign-up' form, and a 'Follow us on Facebook' button.

## 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)

Keywords

Start typing words assorted with case

[+ Show Additional Fields](#)

**SEARCH**

[CLEAR FORM](#)

(B)

Additional 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

Disciplinary Counsel

Disposition

Disposition Type  
Start Typing or Select a Discipline

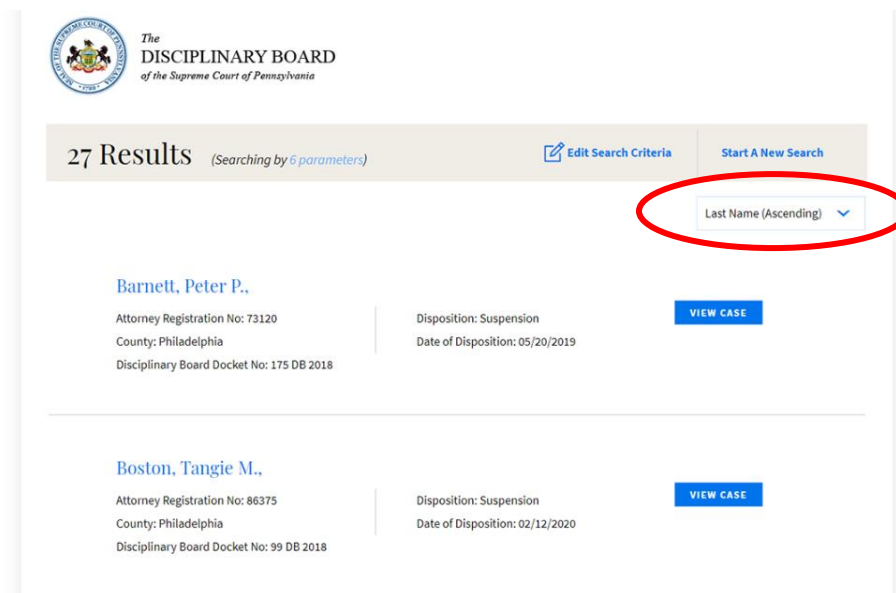
Disposition Description

Decision Date  
On or From this date: MM/DD/YYYY To: MM/DD/YYYY

Effective Date  
On or From this date: MM/DD/YYYY To: MM/DD/YYYY

### 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 header area shows '27 Results' with a note '(Searching by 6 parameters)'. To the right of the results count are links for 'Edit Search Criteria' and 'Start A New Search'. A dropdown menu for sorting is highlighted with a red circle; it currently shows 'Last Name (Ascending)'. Below the header, two case entries are listed. Each entry includes the attorney's name, their registration number, county, docket number, disposition, and date of disposition, followed by a blue 'VIEW CASE' button.

Attorney 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	<a href="#">VIEW CASE</a>
Boston, Tangie M.	86375	Philadelphia	99 DB 2018	Suspension	02/12/2020	<a href="#">VIEW CASE</a>

## 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
-------------------------------------	------------------------	---	-------------------------------

Disciplinary Board Docket No. 67 DB 2019	Supreme Court Docket No. 2725 DD3	Disciplinary Counsel Rubin, Elizabeth J.
---	--------------------------------------	---

Counsel for Respondent

Disposition <b>Suspension</b>	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 <a href="#">View Report</a>	Order/Opinion <a href="#">View Order/Opinion</a>
---	---

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
-------------------------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	-------------------------------

---

Disciplinary Board Docket No. 134 DB 2020	Supreme Court Docket No. 2757 DD3	Disciplinary Counsel Napoli, Samuel F.
--	--------------------------------------	---

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 <a href="#">View Report</a>	Order/Opinion <a href="#">View Order/Opinion</a>
---	---

## 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 <a href="#">View Report</a>	Order/Opinion <a href="#">View Order/Opinion</a>
---	---

---

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

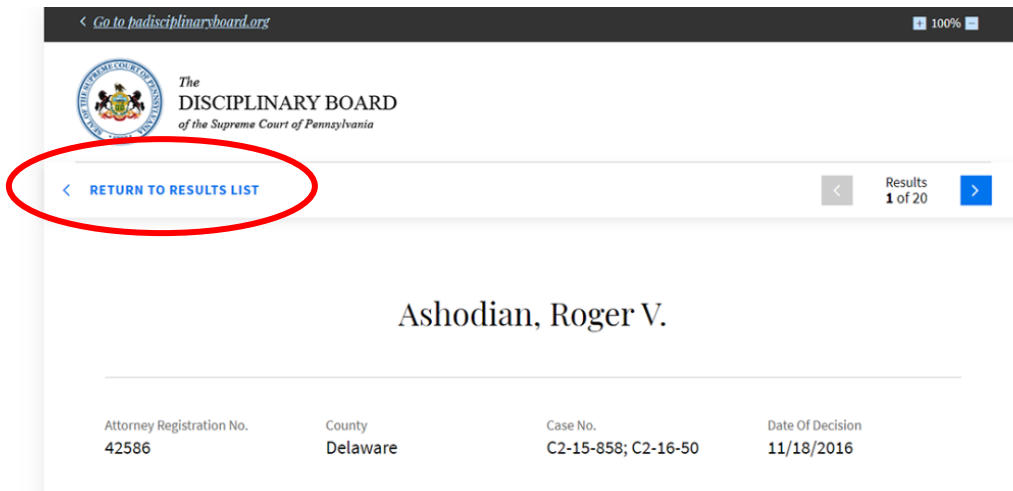
---

[Printer Friendly](#)

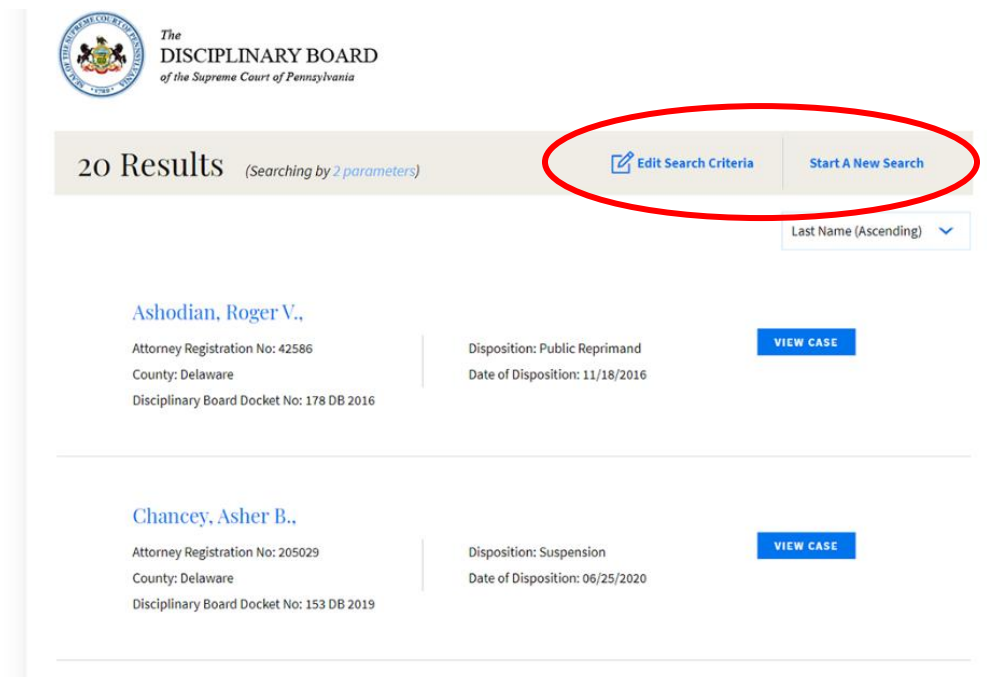
## V. Editing Search Criteria vs. Starting a New Search

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)



(B)



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

Updated June 2, 2025

### 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

Concealment  
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  
Discharge Rule to Show Cause  
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 Account  
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 Brief  
Failure to File Statement of Compliance  
Failure to Keep Client Informed  
Failure to Keep Required Records  
Failure to List an Operating Account  
Failure to List BOA  
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  
Former Client  
Fraud  
Frivolous  
Frivolous Pleadings

## **G**

Gambling

## **H**

Harassment  
Health Problems

Hostile

## **I**

Identity Theft  
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 Civility  
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  
Misuse of Rules  
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  
Remediation

Remorse  
Restitution  
Robbery  
Rule to Show Cause  
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  
Subpoena  
Suspension

## **T**

Tax Evasion  
Temporary Suspension  
Terms Modified  
Theft  
Therapy  
Threat  
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 June 2, 2025*

### **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 Civility  
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  
Failure to Account  
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 File Brief  
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  
 Identity Theft  
 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  
 Robbery  
 Sexual Abuse  
 Solicitation  
 Stalking  
 Statutory Sexual Assault  
 Tax Evasion  
 Theft  
 Threat  
 Trespassing  
 Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle  
 Unlawful Campaign Contributions  
 Wire Fraud  
 Witness Tampering

#### **DISCIPLINE**

Concurrent  
 Condition  
 Consecutive  
 Deterrence  
 Discharge Rule to Show Cause  
 Retroactive  
 Rule to Show Cause  
 Temporary Suspension

#### **MITIGATING FACTORS**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

Advertising  
Altered Records  
Attorney Registration  
Bankruptcy  
Bar Application  
Civil Rights  
Collateral Estoppel  
Communication  
Concealment  
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 List BOA  
Failure to Pay Withheld Employment Taxes  
Failure to Recuse  
Failure to Supervise  
Fee Agreement  
Fee Dispute  
Filed Meritless Civil Action  
Former Client  
Frivolous Pleadings  
Hostile  
Immigration  
Inappropriate Communications  
Independent Contractors  
Ineffective Assistance of Counsel  
Intentional Prevarication  
Intimidation  
Law Firm  
Meritorious Claims  
Misconduct  
Misuse of Rules  
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  
Subpoena  
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  
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