

**IN RE: JENNIFER SIRRINE**

**BBO # 706180**

**NO. BD-2022-021**

**Judgment (Accepting Affidavit of Resignation As A Disciplinary Sanction) entered by Justice Cypher on March 7, 2022, with an Effective Date of April 6, 2022.<sup>1</sup>**

*The respondent's Affidavit of Resignation was accepted as a disciplinary sanction.*

**SUMMARY<sup>2</sup>**

The respondent submitted an Affidavit of Resignation to the Board of Bar Overseers, see S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 15, in which she admitted a range of misconduct in two matters. As to the first, she agreed that in the context of a dispute with co-counsel on a federal case, she filed an amended complaint bearing co-counsel's signature against co-counsel's express wishes and without her clients' permission; filed a withdrawal motion revealing confidential information in which she criticized her co-counsel on the case; filed a state lawsuit for breach of contract against co-counsel that made damage demands that did not have a substantial basis; and, in the context of that lawsuit, revealed confidential information of the former clients without their permission. In the second matter, she billed a prospective client who had rescinded an offer of employment, and threatened to bring a lawsuit in which harmful information provided to her by the prospective client would have become public, unless the bill was paid; contacted the non-lawyer staff of an adverse party after they had asked her to contact only their legal counsel; and threatened to sue an individual officer of the prospective client in part because she filed a complaint with the Board of Bar Overseers. The respondent agreed that her misconduct violated Mass. R. Prof. C. 1.4, 1.8(b), 1.9(c), 1.16(d), 3.1, 4.2, 4.4(a), 8.4(c), 8.4(d) and 8.4(h).

By vote dated February 14, 2022, the Board of Bar Overseers recommended to the S.J.C. that it accept the respondent's Affidavit of Resignation as a disciplinary sanction.

On March 7, 2022, Justice Cypher accepted the respondent's Affidavit of Resignation as a disciplinary sanction.

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<sup>1</sup> The complete order of the Court is available by contacting the Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County.

<sup>2</sup> Compiled by the Massachusetts Board of Bar Overseers' Office of General Counsel based on the record filed with the Supreme Judicial Court.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

SUFFOLK, SS.

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT  
FOR SUFFOLK COUNTY  
NO: BD-2022-021

IN RE: JENNIFER SIRRINE

JUDGMENT ACCEPTING AFFIDAVIT OF RESIGNATION  
AS A DISCIPLINARY SANCTION

This matter came before the Court, Cypher, J., presiding, on an Affidavit of Resignation pursuant to S.J.C. Rule 4:01, § 15, submitted by Jennifer Sirriner, with a letter dated February 4, 2022 to from assistant bar counsel to general counsel of the Board of Bar Overseers (Board) requesting a recommendation from the Board that the Supreme Judicial Court accept the affidavit of resignation as a disciplinary sanction, along with the Recommendation and Vote of the Board filed on March 2, 2022.

Upon consideration thereof, it is ORDERED and ADJUDGED:

1. The Affidavit of Resignation of Jennifer Sirriner hereby is, accepted as a disciplinary sanction and the lawyer's name is stricken from the Roll of Attorneys. In accordance with S.J.C. Rule 4:01, sec. 17(3), the resignation shall be effective thirty (30) days from the date of the entry of this Judgment. The lawyer, after the entry of this Judgment, shall not accept any new retainer or engage as a lawyer for another in any new case or legal matter of any nature. During the period between the entry date of this Judgment

and its effective date, however, the lawyer may wind up and complete, on behalf of any client, all matters which were pending on the entry date.

It is FURTHER ORDERED that:

2. Within fourteen (14) days of the date of entry of this Judgment, the lawyer shall:

a) file a notice of withdrawal as of the effective date of the resignation with every court, agency, or tribunal before which a matter is pending, together with a copy of the notices sent pursuant to paragraphs 2(c) and 2(d) of this Judgment, the client's or clients' place of residence, and the case caption and docket number of the client's or clients' proceedings;

b) resign as of the effective date of the resignation all appointments as guardian, executor, administrator, trustee, attorney-in-fact, or other fiduciary, attaching to the resignation a copy of the notices sent to the wards, heirs, or beneficiaries pursuant to paragraphs 2(c) and 2(d) of this Judgment, the place of residence of the wards, heirs, or beneficiaries, and the case caption and docket number of the proceedings, if any;

c) provide notice to all clients and to all wards, heirs, and beneficiaries that the lawyer has resigned as a disciplinary sanction; that she is disqualified from acting as a lawyer after the effective date of the resignation; and that, if not represented by co-counsel, the client, ward, heir, or

beneficiary should act promptly to substitute another lawyer or fiduciary or to seek legal advice elsewhere, calling attention to any urgency arising from the circumstances of the case;

d) provide notice to counsel for all parties (or, in the absence of counsel, the parties) in pending matters that the lawyer has resigned as a disciplinary sanction and, as a consequence, is disqualified from acting as a lawyer after the effective date of the resignation;

e) make available to all clients being represented in pending matters any papers or other property to which they are entitled, calling attention to any urgency for obtaining the papers or other property;

f) refund any part of any fees paid in advance that have not been earned; and

g) close every IOLTA, client, trust or other fiduciary account and properly disburse or otherwise transfer all client and fiduciary funds in her possession, custody or control.

All notices required by this paragraph shall be served by certified mail, return receipt requested, in a form approved by the Board.

3. Within twenty-one (21) days after the date of entry of this Judgment, the lawyer shall file with the Office of the Bar Counsel an affidavit certifying that the lawyer has fully complied with the provisions of this Judgment and with bar disciplinary rules.

Appended to the affidavit of compliance shall be:

a) a copy of each form of notice, the names and addresses of

the clients, wards, heirs, beneficiaries, attorneys, courts and agencies to which notices were sent, and all return receipts or returned mail received up to the date of the affidavit.

Supplemental affidavits shall be filed covering subsequent return receipts and returned mail. Such names and addresses of clients shall remain confidential unless otherwise requested in writing by the lawyer or ordered by the court;

b) a schedule showing the location, title and account number of every bank account designated as an IOLTA, client, trust or other fiduciary account and of every account in which the lawyer holds or held as of the entry date of this Judgment any client, trust or fiduciary funds;

c) a schedule describing the lawyer's disposition of all client and fiduciary funds in the lawyer's possession, custody or control as of the entry date of this Judgment or thereafter;

d) such proof of the proper distribution of such funds and the closing of such accounts as has been requested by the bar counsel, including copies of checks and other instruments;

e) a list of all other state, federal and administrative jurisdictions to which the lawyer is admitted to practice;

f) the residence or other street address where communications to the lawyer may thereafter be directed;

and

g) any and all bar registration cards issued to the lawyer by the Board of Bar Overseers.

The lawyer shall retain copies of all notices sent and shall maintain complete records of the steps taken to comply with the notice requirements of S.J.C. Rule 4:01, Section 17.

4. Within twenty-one (21) days after the entry date of this Judgment, the lawyer shall file with the Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County:

- a) a copy of the affidavit of compliance required by paragraph 3 of this Judgment;
- b) a list of all other state, federal and administrative jurisdictions to which the lawyer is admitted to practice; and
- c) the residence or other street address where communications to the lawyer may thereafter be directed.

By the Court, (Cypher, J.)

/s/ Maura S. Doyle

Maura S. Doyle, Clerk

Entered: March 7, 2022