

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL,	:	No. 3041 Disciplinary Docket No. 3
	:	
	:	No. 39 DB 2024
Petitioner	:	
	:	Attorney Registration No. 321862
v.	:	
	:	(Allegheny County)
REBECCA CATHERINE STEIN,	:	
	:	
	:	
Respondent	:	

**ORDER**

**PER CURIAM**

**AND NOW**, this 14<sup>th</sup> of April, 2025, upon consideration of the Recommendation of the Three-Member Panel of the Disciplinary Board, the Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent is granted, and Rebecca Catherine Stein is suspended on consent from the Bar of this Commonwealth for a period of three years, retroactive to May 5, 2024. Respondent shall comply with the provisions of Pa.R.D.E. 217 and pay costs to the Disciplinary Board. See Pa.R.D.E. 208(g).

A True Copy Nicole Traini  
As Of 04/14/2025

Attest:   
Chief Clerk  
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, : No. 3041 Disciplinary Docket  
: No. 3  
Petitioner :  
: No. 39 DB 2024  
v. :  
:  
REBECCA CATHERINE STEIN, : Attorney Registration No. 321862  
:  
Respondent : (Allegheny County)

JOINT PETITION IN SUPPORT OF DISCIPLINE  
ON CONSENT UNDER RULE 215(d), Pa.R.D.E.

Petitioner, Office of Disciplinary Counsel, by Thomas J. Farrell, Chief Disciplinary Counsel, and LaTammie D. Bivins, Disciplinary Counsel, and Respondent, Rebecca Catherine Stein, by and through Ryan H. James, Esquire, files this Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent Under Rule 215(d), Pa.R.D.E. and respectfully represent as follows:

1. Petitioner, Office of Disciplinary Counsel (hereinafter, ODC), whose principal office is located at Pennsylvania Judicial Center, Suite 2700, 601 Commonwealth Avenue, P.O. Box 62485, Harrisburg, PA 17106-2485, is invested, pursuant to Rule 207 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement (hereafter "Pa.R.D.E."), with the power and the duty to investigate all matters involving alleged misconduct of an attorney admitted to

**FILED**  
**03/12/2025**  
**The Disciplinary Board of the**  
**Supreme Court of Pennsylvania**

practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and to prosecute all disciplinary proceedings brought in accordance with the various provisions of the Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement.

2. Respondent, Rebecca Catherine Stein, was born in 1990. She was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on April 28, 2016. Respondent was assigned Attorney Registration No. 321862. Respondent's attorney registration address is Detroit Switch Inc., 1025-33 Beaver Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15233.

3. Respondent was temporarily suspended pursuant to Rule 214(d)(5) by Order of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court dated April 5, 2024.

4. Respondent is subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

#### SPECIFIC FACTUAL ADMISSIONS

5. In May 2018, Respondent was elected as Treasurer for the Fort Pitt Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (hereinafter, Fort Pitt Society) and the Fort Pitt Block House (hereinafter collectively, the Organizations).

6. The Fort Pitt Society was incorporated to accept donations for the Fort Pitt Block House, whose mission is to preserve and protect the Block House, which is located in Pittsburgh's Point State Park.

7. The Organizations maintained bank accounts in PNC Bank and First Commonwealth Bank, as well as four investment accounts with Janney Montgomery Scott, LLC (hereinafter, Janney Montgomery).

8. In her role as Treasurer, Respondent had sole control, including signature authority, over the Organizations' bank accounts, investment accounts and all other financial matters at that time.

9. In May 2022, Respondent was elected Regent of the Organizations.

10. Also in May 2022, the new Treasurer was elected; however, Respondent failed to relinquish the Organizations' computer, which housed the financial accounting program utilized by the Organizations, until October 2022, and failed to add the new Treasurer as an authorized signatory on the bank accounts maintained by the Organizations until January 13, 2023.

11. The Organizations previously held approximately \$500,000 in the Janney Montgomery investment accounts. The Organizations generally use the interest income generated from the Janney Montgomery investment accounts to financially support their operations.

12. The Organizations' expenses were minimal and included the salary of the Block House docent, insurance, taxes, and the wholesale costs of the souvenirs sold in the Block House.

13. In January 2023, a representative from Janney Montgomery notified former Regent, Susan Matlack, that if the Organizations continued to spend money in the manner it had in the past two years, money would be depleted by the end of 2023.

14. Ms. Matlack, perplexed by the information she received from the Janney Montgomery representation, requested the Organizations' Janney Montgomery statements and records back to 2018.

15. Upon review of the records, Ms. Matlock discovered numerous checks that had been written by and payable to Respondent.

16. Ms. Matlack requested bank statements from PNC Bank and First Commonwealth Bank accounts. A review of those records revealed numerous additional checks that were written by and payable to Respondent. Individual check amounts ranged between \$172 and \$18,000.

17. The Allegheny County District Attorney's office initiated an investigation and issued search warrants and obtained the Organizations' financial records from First Commonwealth Bank, PNC Bank and Janney Montgomery.

18. The Allegheny County District Attorney's Office reviewed the bank records obtained pursuant to the search warrants and discovered that between 2019 and 2023, Respondent issued 101 checks, totaling

approximately \$315,332.21, to herself and negotiated these checks for her own benefit. Respondent was the only signer on each of the checks.

19. The Organizations had a policy that required approval by the Board of Directors for any expenses over and above recurring monthly expenses.

20. Respondent did not seek approval for the expenses that were unauthorized.

21. Respondent made false entries in the Organizations' QuickBooks software to conceal the fact that she was misappropriating the Organizations' funds.

22. Respondent deposited the checks that she had written to herself into checking accounts she personally maintained at PNC Bank and Bank of America.

23. The review of the Organizations' bank records also revealed that in addition to writing checks made payable to herself from the Organizations' bank accounts, each month Respondent made large, even dollar payments to numerous credit cards, PayPal, Amazon and other credit accounts made by Respondent, such as Klarna and Affirms. The credit cards were held at Bank of America, PNC Bank, Banana Republic, Macys, Nordstroms, Applecard GS Bank, Capital One, LL Bean, Comenity, Best Buy, Barclaycard, Wells Fargo and CitiCards.

24. Only \$36,947.96 of the unauthorized purchases made by Respondent were legitimate expenses and were later determined to have been for the benefit of the Organizations.

25. Respondent was arrested and charged with Receiving Stolen Property (18 Pa.C.S.A. 3925(a)), Theft by Unlawful Taking (18 Pa.C.S.A. 3925(a)), and Misapplication of Entrusted Property and Property of Government or Financial Institutions (18 Pa.C.S.A. 4113(a) and (b)).

26. On February 22, 2024, Respondent appeared before the Honorable Beth Lazzara in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania and pled guilty to one count of Misapplication of Entrusted Property and Property of Government or Financial Institutions, in violation of 18 Pa.C.S.A. § 4113(a) and (b), a Misdemeanor of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree. (A true and correct copy of the Guilty Plea Colloquy is attached as Exhibit "A".)

27. The crime of Misapplication of Entrusted Property and Property of Government or Financial Institutions is punishable by a term of imprisonment of up to two years and a maximum fine of \$5,000.

28. Following her guilty plea on February 22, 2024, Respondent was placed on probation for a period of two years. (A true and correct copy of the Order of Sentence is attached as Exhibit "B")

29. As conditions of her probation, Respondent must continue mental health treatment and comply with all Allegheny County General Rules of Probation and Parole.

#### SPECIFIC RULE VIOLATIONS

30. By her conduct set forth in paragraphs 5 through 29, Respondent admits that she violated the following Rules:

(a) Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4(b) – in that, it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to commit a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer’s honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects; and

(b) Rule 203(b)(1), Pa.R.D.E. – in that, a conviction of a crime shall be grounds for discipline.

31. The crime to which Respondent pled guilty is a “crime” as defined in Pa.R.D.E. 214(h), and therefore Respondent’s conviction is a *per se* basis for discipline under Pa.R.D.E. 203(b)(1).

#### SPECIFIC JOINT RECOMMENDATION FOR DISCIPLINE

32. ODC and Respondent jointly recommend that the appropriate discipline for Respondent’s admitted misconduct for her criminal conviction is a suspension for a period of three years, retroactive to the effective date of her temporary suspension.

33. Respondent hereby consents to the discipline being imposed upon her. Attached to this Petition is Respondent's executed Affidavit required by Rule 215(d), Pa.R.D.E., stating that she consents to the recommended discipline and including the mandatory acknowledgements contained in Rule 215(d)(i)-(iv), Pa.R.D.E..

34. While Respondent's crime did not involve the misappropriation of client funds, she used her position of trust to steal from two charitable organizations that rely on the generosity of the public for their operations.

35. In support of ODC and Respondent's joint recommendation, it is submitted that the following mitigating circumstances are present:

(a) Respondent demonstrated acceptance of responsibility by pleading guilty to criminal charges in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County;

(b) Respondent paid the full restitution in the amount of \$277,092.92 to the Organizations;

(c) Respondent demonstrated acceptance of responsibility for her misconduct by entering into a Joint Petition for Temporary Suspension pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 214(d)(5) on March 27, 2024 resulting in the entry of an Order of Temporary Suspension on April 5, 2024;

(d) Respondent has no prior discipline;

(e) Respondent never had any clients, nor actively engaged in the practice of law;

(f) If this matter were to proceed to a disciplinary hearing, Respondent would submit evidence in support of mitigation pursuant to *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Braun*, 553 A.2d (Pa. 1989);

(g) Specifically, relevant to the *Braun* evidence, Respondent would proffer:

(i) Respondent's mental health diagnoses of "other specified bipolar disorder" and "generalized anxiety disorder" and evidence that the effects of which contributed to her misconduct;

(ii) In Respondent's bipolar condition, she went from really high highs to extreme lows of depression;

(iii) During periods of mania, Respondent felt feelings of invincibility and grandiosity that she could easily make recompense thereafter for what she misappropriated;

(iv) When Respondent reflects back on her conduct, she experiences distortions and a foggy memory of her particular conduct in the throes of her mania; and

(v) When Respondent came back down into a depressive state, she experienced debilitating remorse and embarrassment, which devolved into extremely depressive thoughts.

(h) Through treatment, Respondent has regulated and addressed her mental-health condition and her prognosis for the future is positive. She is committed to continuing her mental health treatment.

36. Both the Disciplinary Board and the Court recently approved a Joint Petition in Support of Consent Discipline for a three-year suspension involving the misappropriation of non-client funds by an attorney in ***Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Shelley L. Fant***, 78 DB 2023, (S.Ct. Order 4/10/2024). Fant operated a non-law related employment agency. Between 2015 and 2018, she withheld over \$500,000 in employment taxes from the employees that she provided for her clients. Instead of submitting the taxes to the appropriate taxing authorities, Fant used the funds for her personal benefit. Fant entered a guilty plea in federal court to one count of Willful

Failure to Collect or Pay Over Tax, in violation of 26 U.S.C. §7202 and one count of Willful Failure to File Tax Return, in violation of 26 U.S.C. §7203. The total restitution in the case was \$658,895. Fant also entered a guilty plea to one count of Driving Under Influence of Alcohol or Controlled Substance, highest rate of alcohol in violation of 75 Pa.C.S.A. §3802(c), in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County. Like Respondent, Fant was placed on probation, with conditions, including repayment of a substantial amount of restitution. Fant's restitution of \$658,895, reflecting the total amount she stole, was more than double the \$277,092.92 in Respondent's case. Moreover, it is noteworthy that Respondent, unlike Fant, satisfied her obligation to make restitution to the victims prior to entering her guilty plea. Respondent also offers significant evidence of mitigation pursuant to **Braun**, which was not present in **Fant**. Like Fant, Respondent does not have a history of discipline.

37. In **Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. John William Eddy**, 143 DB 2019 (S.Ct. Order 6/4/2021), the respondent was suspended for a period of three years following his misappropriation of client funds from nine (9) different clients, totaling approximately \$89,000. Eddy offered evidence of **Braun** mitigation during his disciplinary hearing. In the related criminal matter in **United States v. John William Eddy**, on February 9, 2022, Eddy entered a guilty plea to one count of Wire Fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C §1343 in the

United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania at criminal docket 1:22-CR-007-01. The government's investigation, which included Eddy's participation, revealed that Eddy had misappropriated \$242,975.89 in client funds. Eddy reimbursed the victims before he entered his guilty plea. Respondent's restitution obligation was commensurate with that of Eddy, and like Eddy, Respondent satisfied her restitution obligation prior to entering her guilty plea to the criminal charges. Also, like Eddy, Respondent has offered evidence of *Braun* mitigation. Unlike Eddy, Respondent's theft was not committed in the course of her acting as an attorney and did not involve entrusted client funds.

38. Subsequently, in *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. John Eddy*, 49 DB 2022 (S.Ct. Order 9/12/2023), Eddy was suspended again for a term of three years on consent for misappropriating client funds while engaging in the unauthorized practice of law while serving his suspension under his prior disciplinary matter. Eddy's misconduct was mitigated by a relapse in his sobriety and his ongoing mental health needs. However, in aggravation, Eddy's misconduct in the second disciplinary matter began when he accepted funds from a purported client on April 21, 2021, with the false promise that he could represent her son. He continued to accept multiple funds from this purported client between April and June 2021, totaling \$3,418.50. This

misconduct was occurring at the same time Eddy's first disciplinary matter was pending before the Court which ultimately entered an Order suspending him on June 4, 2021. Unlike Eddy, who misappropriated client funds not once, but in two separate disciplinary matters, Respondent did not misappropriate client funds. However, Respondent's misconduct breached the trust bestowed on her by the Organizations.

39. Precedent does not call for a lengthier suspension. In *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Robert William Stein*, 90 DB 2012 (S.Ct. Order 1/19/2017), Robert Stein was suspended for a period of five years following a criminal conviction for violating the federal Sherman Act for engaging in a conspiracy that involved rigging bids at public auctions for tax liens. His misconduct spanned over ten years. The economic losses suffered by his victims exceeded three million dollars. Unlike Respondent, Robert Stein was not entitled to *Braun* mitigation. Robert Stein's misconduct was more egregious than that of Respondent.

40. Based on the precedent cited, ODC and Respondent submit that a three (3) year suspension is appropriate. Respondent's misconduct does not rise to the level of the ten (10) year span of misconduct and multi-million-dollar theft engaged in by Robert Stein. Likewise, while Respondent's thefts from the Organizations occurred over a four (4) year period of time she did not

engage in additional misconduct like Eddy who, in both cases, stole entrusted client funds and who received two (2) consecutive three (3) year suspensions. Respondent's misconduct is most analogous to that of Fant who received a three (3) year suspension for the theft of non-client funds after approval of a joint petition for discipline on consent.

WHEREFORE, ODC and Respondent respectfully request that:

(a) Pursuant to Rule 215(e) and 215(g), Pa. R.D.E., a three-member panel of the Disciplinary Board review and approve the above Joint Petition In Support Of Discipline On Consent and file its recommendation that the Supreme Court enter an Order that Respondent receive a suspension of three years, retroactive to the effective date of her temporary suspension, and that Respondent comply with all of the provisions of Rule 217, Pa. R.D.E.; and

(b) Pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 215(i), the three-member panel of the Disciplinary Board recommend to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court that the Court enter an Order for Respondent to pay the necessary expense incurred in the investigation and prosecution of this matter, and that under Pa.R.D.E. 208(g)(1), all expenses

be paid by Respondent within 30 days after notice transmitted to the Respondent of taxed expenses..

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

THOMAS J. FARRELL  
CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

3/12/25

Date

By: *LaTammie D. Bivins*

LaTammie D. Bivins  
Disciplinary Counsel, District IV  
Attorney Registration No. 79599

3/11/2025

Date

*Rebecca Catherine Stein*

Rebecca Catherine Stein  
Respondent  
Attorney Registration No. 321862

3/11/25

Date

*Ryan H. James*

Ryan H. James, Esquire  
Counsel for Respondent  
Attorney Registration No. 313049

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA : CRIMINAL DIVISION  
vs. :  
REBECCA STEIN : CC No. 2023-7485

**GUILTY PLEA  
EXPLANATION OF DEFENDANT'S RIGHTS**

You or your attorney have indicated to the officers of this Court that you wish to plead guilty to certain specific criminal charges which the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has brought against you.

In order to have your plea accepted by this Court here today, you must waive your right to confront the prosecution witnesses against you and agree to permit the Attorney for the Commonwealth to summarize the Commonwealth's evidence against you. You must agree to stipulate to the authenticity and accuracy of any Crime Laboratory reports presented by the Commonwealth and to the chain of custody of any of the Commonwealth's evidence involved in your case.

You must fully understand that your plea must be voluntary and no clemency is being promised in exchange for your plea, with the exception of any plea bargain or arrangement previously agreed to between your attorney and the Assistant District Attorney assigned to your case.

By pleading guilty to any charge, you are admitting that you committed that offense. The Commonwealth would not have to prove *beyond a reasonable doubt* each and every element of the offenses with which you are charged as would be required in a jury or non-jury trial.

Please be advised that you must fully understand that the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania give to you an absolute right to have a trial by judge or by jury.

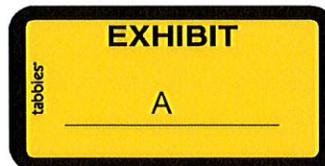
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CERTIFIED FROM THE RECORD

Michael McBeaver

DIRECTOR, DEPT. OF COURT RECORDS

BY [Signature] 205  
Clerk Defendant's initials



If you intend to waive your Constitutional right to a trial by judge or by jury, please answer all the questions on this form. Most of the questions are designed to be answered "yes" or "no." Where general information is requested, please answer the question as fully as possible.

If you do not understand the question, you should say so in writing on this form. You should also tell your lawyer and the judge who hears your case so they can explain it to you. You must fully understand all of your rights before the judge can accept your plea.

You should initial each page at the bottom after you have read, understood, and completed your answers to the questions on that page. When you have finished all of the questions, you must sign the form at the end.

1. What is your full name? Rebecca Catherine Stein
2. How old are you today? 34
3. What is the highest grade that you have completed in school? Tenise Certificate

Answer either "Yes" or "No" to the following questions:

4. Do you read, write, and understand the English language? yes
5. Do you understand that if you have been charged with more than one offense, the Court may impose a separate, or consecutive, sentence for each offense? yes
6. Have you discussed with your attorney the elements of each charged offense? yes
7. Have you discussed with your attorney the factual basis of each charged offense? yes
8. Have you discussed with your attorney how the facts in your case prove the elements of each charged offense? yes
9. Do you understand that both the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania give you an absolute right to a trial by jury? yes

10. Do you understand that if you want a jury trial, you could take part in the selection of the jury under Court supervision along with your attorney and with the Assistant District Attorney assigned to prosecute your case? YES
11. Do you understand that you and your attorney and the Assistant District Attorney assigned to prosecute your case would select a jury from a panel of jurors randomly selected by computer from the voter registration lists and other legally approved lists of citizens of Allegheny County? YES
12. Do you understand that both the defense and prosecution would have the right to "challenge" members of the jury panel and that this means you and the prosecution would have the right to cause certain persons on the jury panel from being a member of the jury in your case? YES
13. Both you and the prosecution would have as many challenges "for cause" as the court would approve. "For cause" means a good reason why the challenged person could not be a fair and impartial juror in your case. Do you fully understand this? YES
14. Both you and the prosecution would each also have a number of peremptory challenges. A peremptory challenge is one in which no reason has to be given to prevent a prospective juror from being a member of your jury. If you are charged with felonies, both you and the prosecution each have seven peremptory challenges. If you are charged only with misdemeanors, both you and the prosecution each have five peremptory challenges. Do you fully understand this? YES
15. All twelve members of the jury finally selected would have to be satisfied that the Commonwealth had proven your guilt beyond a reasonable doubt on each and every element of the charges; that is, the vote of all twelve must be unanimous before you could be found guilty. Do you fully understand this? YES
16. You also may choose to be tried before a judge without a jury in what is called a non-jury or bench trial and that the judge, in addition to ruling on legal questions and defining the law as in jury trials would also sit as the trier of fact, the same as a jury in a jury trial; and it would be the judge who determines from the evidence presented whether the Commonwealth has proven you guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Do you fully understand this? YES

17. In either the jury trial or non-jury trial before a judge, you enter the courtroom clothed with the presumption of innocence and that presumption remains with you until such time that all the members of the jury or the judge in a non-jury trial, would find you guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Do you fully understand this? yes
18. In either a jury trial or non-jury trial, it is the burden of the Commonwealth to prove you guilty "beyond a reasonable doubt," and to do this the Commonwealth must prove each and every element of the crime or crimes with which you are charged "beyond a reasonable doubt" to the satisfaction of all twelve jurors or to the satisfaction of the judge. Do you fully understand this? yes
19. A reasonable doubt is an honest doubt arising from the evidence presented or from the lack of evidence, and it is the kind of doubt that would cause a reasonable, prudent person to pause and hesitate before acting in a matter of importance in their own affairs. Do you fully understand this? yes
20. In either a jury trial or a non-jury trial, you have the absolute right to remain silent and need not present any evidence in your own behalf and there is no burden placed on you to prove your own innocence or, for that matter to prove anything since the burden is always on the Commonwealth to prove you guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Do you fully understand this? yes
21. However, in either a jury trial or a non-jury trial before a judge, you have the right, if you so desire, to testify and present evidence on your behalf. You also would have the right, either yourself or through your attorney, to cross-examine or question any witnesses presented by the Commonwealth in order to test their credibility and the truthfulness of their testimony. Do you fully understand this? yes
22. By pleading guilty, you are giving up all of these rights described in the previous questions. Do you fully understand this? yes
23. Do you understand that if you are not a citizen of the United States, whether or not you have lawful immigration status, your plea or admission of guilt may result in detention, deportation, exclusion from the United States, or denial of naturalization or other immigration benefits? You have the right to seek advice from a lawyer about these issues before you admit guilt to any offense. You are not entitled to an immigration lawyer at public expense. Upon request, the court may allow you additional time to consult with an immigration attorney. Do you understand this? yes

24. When you plead guilty, the Commonwealth would not have to prove each and every element of the crime or crimes with which you are charged by the presentation of witnesses and/or other evidence but the Assistant District Attorney could simply present a summary of the evidence against you. Do you fully understand this? YES

25. By pleading guilty, you are admitting you committed the crimes charged. You are stating that you do not challenge or dispute the charges against you. Do you fully understand this? YES

26. By pleading guilty, you give up the right not only to file pretrial motions, but also you abandon or give up any pretrial motions already filed and not yet decided and any pretrial motions in which decisions were already made. Do you fully understand this? YES

27. Do you understand that by pleading guilty, you also give up the right to present or assert any defenses on your behalf? YES

These defenses might include alibi, self-defense, mental infirmity, or insanity. Have you discussed with your attorney why these defenses are not available in your case? YES

28. If you were convicted after a jury trial or non-jury trial, you could appeal the verdict to the appellate courts and raise any errors that were committed in the trial court, and this could result in a new trial or a dismissal. By pleading guilty, you are giving up this right. Do you fully understand this?  
YES

29. Do you fully understand that if you were convicted after a jury trial or a non-jury trial before a judge, you could challenge in this Court and in the appellate courts whether the Commonwealth had presented enough evidence to prove you guilty beyond a reasonable doubt? YES

30. By pleading guilty, you give up certain rights of appeal; in a jury trial or a non-jury trial, you would have the right to appeal any errors that might arise in your case to the appellate courts. However, when you plead guilty, you limit the grounds for those appeals to four specific reasons:

- I. that this Court did not have jurisdiction in your case. With rare exception, this Court only has jurisdiction where the crime was committed in Allegheny County;

2. that the sentence or probation imposed by this Court is illegal;
3. that your plea was not knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily made; and
4. Challenge the competence or effectiveness of the attorney who represents you.

All other grounds for appeal are given up. Do you fully understand this? YES

31. In order to raise a claim on direct appeal that your attorney was ineffective or incompetent, it is necessary for you to first raise that claim in a post sentence motion, filed within ten (10) days of your sentencing. Otherwise, you cannot challenge the competence of your attorney until the post conviction stage. Do you fully understand this? YES
32. Do you understand that you have the right to file a motion seeking to withdraw your guilty plea at any time prior to the date of sentencing? YES
33. Do you understand that you must be sentenced within ninety (90) days of the date of the entry of your plea of guilty? YES
34. Do you understand you have the right within ten (10) days after you have been sentenced to file a motion seeking to withdraw your guilty plea? YES
35. If you were to file a motion seeking to withdraw your plea of guilty, either prior to sentencing or within ten (10) days after sentencing, that motion must be filed in writing. If you would fail to do so within these time periods, you would give up those rights. Do you fully understand this? YES
36. In order to appeal your conviction that results from your plea of guilty, you must file in writing your motion seeking to withdraw your plea, either prior to sentencing or within ten (10) days after sentencing and state one or more of the four (4) grounds listed below as the basis for a motion seeking to withdraw your plea:
  - (a) Your plea was not knowing, intelligent and voluntary;
  - (b) That your crime was not committed within the jurisdiction of this Court, i.e. not committed within Allegheny County;

RCS  
Defendant's initials

- (c) That the sentence of this Court is illegal; and/or,
- (d) That your attorney was ineffective and incompetent.

if you do not file this motion within the proscribed time limits, you will have given up this right. Do you fully understand this? yes

37. If your motion seeking to withdraw your plea of guilty, which is filed prior to sentencing, is denied you would have ten (10) days from the date of sentencing to file with this Court a post-sentencing motion challenging the denial of your motion to withdraw your plea of guilty. Do you fully understand this?

yes

38. Following the imposition of sentence upon you for your entry of a plea of guilty, you have the right to file post-sentencing motions with this Court which include:

- (a) a motion challenging the validity of a plea of guilty;
- (b) a motion challenging the denial of a motion seeking withdrawal of a plea of guilty;
- (c) a motion to modify sentence.

Do you fully understand these rights? yes

39. If you would file any post-sentencing motions, those motions must be decided by this Court within one hundred twenty (120) days of the date of filing of said motions, or within one hundred fifty (150) days of the date of filing of those motions if you sought and were granted a thirty (30) day extension, which extension only you can request. Do you fully understand this? yes

40. If your post-sentencing motions are not decided within one hundred twenty (120) days of the date of filing, or within one hundred fifty (150) days of the date of filing, if you sought and received a thirty (30) day extension, then said motions are deemed to have been denied by operation of law and cannot be reconsidered by the trial Court. Do you fully understand this? yes

41. Should your post-sentencing motion be denied by this Court or by operation of law, you will receive, either from the trial Court or from the Department of Court Records, an order of court advising you of your appellate rights, the right to assistance of counsel, if indigent, the right to proceed *in forma pauperis*, and the qualified right to bail. Any appeal to the Superior Court must be filed within thirty (30) days of the denial of your post-sentencing motion. Do you fully understand this? yes

42. If you wish to file any of these motions with this Court or an appeal to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania and cannot afford an attorney to assist you to do so, the trial Court will appoint an attorney for you at no cost to you. Do you fully understand this? YES
43. When you plead guilty, and your plea is accepted by this Court, all that remains is for the judge to sentence you on the charges to which you are pleading; but if your plea is rejected, you have the right to proceed with a trial. Do you fully understand this? YES
44. Have you and your attorney discussed the maximum possible sentences which this Court could impose? YES
45. If there is a mandatory minimum sentence applicable and this mandatory sentence is sought by the Commonwealth, then this Court has no discretion to impose a lesser sentence and must impose at least the minimum sentence that is required by law. Do you fully understand this? YES
46. Are you aware that if the offenses with which you are charged do not require a mandatory sentence under the statutory law of Pennsylvania, this Court is not bound by the sentencing guidelines and may deviate from the guidelines; however, if the Court does so, both the District Attorney and you would have a right to appeal such deviation? YES
47. Do you understand that if you are entering a plea of guilty to the charge of Violation of the Vehicle Code: Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, a Controlled Substance or both that independent of any sentence this Court might impose, the Department of Transportation has the right, upon receipt of notice of this conviction, to impose an additional penalty upon you? YES
48. Do you understand that any term of imprisonment imposed as a result of your plea may be imposed separately or consecutively, with any other sentence you are currently serving? YES
49. Do you understand that your plea of guilty or nolo contendere violates any period of parole or probation that you are currently serving, either state or federal, as long as the crime or crimes you were convicted of or pled to occurred during those periods of probation or parole? YES

50. Do you understand that if your plea of guilty or nolo contendere violates a period of parole or probation, either state or federal, you would be subjecting yourself to an additional penalty for the violation of those periods of parole and/or probation and a new sentence could be issued for each violation and those sentences could be imposed consecutively to the sentence imposed upon you for your plea of guilty or nolo contendere in this case? YES
51. Are you eligible for a RRRI sentence? NO
52. Your plea must be voluntary and your rights must be voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waived. If anyone has promised you anything other than the terms of a plea bargain, your plea will be rejected. If anyone has forced you or attempted to force you in any way to plead guilty, your plea will be rejected. Do you fully understand this? YES
53. Has anybody forced you to enter this plea? NO
54. Are you doing this of your own free will? YES
55. Have any threats been made to you to enter a plea? NO
56. Has anyone (including your attorney) promised you anything in exchange for the guilty plea other than the terms of any plea bargain? NO
57. Do you understand that if there is a plea bargain in this case, the terms of the plea bargain will be stated on the record before the judge and that you will be bound by the terms of the plea bargain as they appear of record? YES
58. Do you understand that the Court is not bound by any plea bargain entered into by you and the District Attorney? YES

59. If the Court rejects the plea bargain after hearing a summary of the evidence, you would then have a right to withdraw your plea and you would have the option of entering a straight plea with no plea bargain involved or, have a trial by jury if you so desire. Do you fully understand this? YES
60. Is there a plea bargain in this case? YES
61. Are you satisfied with the legal advice and legal representation of your attorney? YES
62. Have you had ample opportunity to consult with your attorney before entering your plea, and are you satisfied that your attorney knows all of the facts of your case and has had enough time within which to check any questions of fact or law which either you or your attorney may have about the case?  
YES
63. Has your attorney gone over with you the meaning of the terms of this document? YES
64. Do you have any physical or mental illness that affects your ability to understand these rights or the voluntary nature of your plea? NO
65. Are you presently taking any medication which affects your thinking or your free will? NO
66. Have you had any drugs or alcohol in the past forty-eight (48) hours? NO
67. If you are entering a plea of guilty, you admit that you committed the crime(s) with which you are charged. Do you fully understand this? YES

68. Do you understand your rights? YES

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE READ THE ABOVE DOCUMENT IN ITS ENTIRETY, I UNDERSTAND ITS FULL MEANING, AND I AM STILL NEVERTHELESS WILLING TO ENTER A PLEA TO THE OFFENSES SPECIFIED. I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT MY SIGNATURE AND INITIALS ON EACH PAGE OF THIS DOCUMENT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT.

DATE: February 26, 2024 [Signature]  
Signature of Defendant

RCS  
Defendant's initials

CERTIFICATION OF DEFENSE COUNSEL

I certify that:

- (1) I am an attorney admitted to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.
- (2) I represent the defendant herein.
- (3) I know no reason why the defendant does not fully understand everything that is being said and done here today.
- (4) The defendant read the above form in my presence and fully understands it; I have gone over the form completely with the defendant, explained all of the items on the form and answered any questions he or she had.
- (5) I see no reason why the defendant cannot and is not knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily giving up his or her rights to trial and pleading guilty.
- (6) I made no promises to the defendant other than any that appear of record in this case.

DATE: 2-22-2024

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney for Defendant

PCS  
Defendant's initials

**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts* that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

Submitted by: ATTORNEY  
Signature: [Handwritten Signature]  
Name: SHELLEY DUFF  
Attorney No. (if applicable): 80955

RC5  
Defendant's initials

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

vs

Rebecca Catherine Stein  
AKA Rebecca Stein

Docket No.	CP-02-CR-0007485-2023	Offense Date	4/5/2019
O.T.N. No.	R9127112	Filed Date	8/17/2023
S.I.D. No.	[REDACTED]	Pre-Trial Date	
Race	White	Rule 600 Date	8/16/2024
Sex	Female	F/A Date	11/20/2023
SS #	[REDACTED]	Judge	
D.O.B.	1/27/1990	Reporter	
		Minute Clerk	
		A.D.A	

Count 1: 183921A: THEFT BY UNLAWFUL TAKING - MOVABLE PROPERTY  
 Count 2: 183925A: RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY  
 Count 3: 184113A: MISAPPLICATION OF ENTRUSTED PROPERTY AND PROPERTY OF GOVERNMENT OR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

AND NOW Feb 22, 2024  
 Courtroom 306  
S. D. [Signature] Judge  
S. [Signature] Trial A.D.A.  
S. [Signature] Def. Attorney  
S. Cox Ct. Reporter  
 The Defendant present in open court with Counsel, pleads guilty to the preferred charges in the within information.  
See Collogoy Filed  
 Record verified by [Signature]  
[Signature] Minute Clerk

And Now, 2/22/24  
 The Commonwealth moves to withdraw counts 1 and 2.  
 Motion granted.  
 By the Court [Signature]  
 DIRECTOR DEPT. OF COURT RECORDS  
 2023 NOV 14 8:26  
 SENTENCE PENALTY IMPOSED  
 SEE ORDER FILED

FILED

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

vs

Rebecca Catherine Stein

Criminal Action No. CP-02-CR-0007485-2023

The District Attorney of ALLEGHENY County, by this information charges that on (or about) Friday, the 5th day of April, 2019 through Thursday, the 26th day of January, 2023 in the said county of ALLEGHENY, Rebecca Catherine Stein hereinafter called actor, did commit the crime or crimes indicated herein, that is:

Count: 1      THEFT BY UNLAWFUL TAKING - MOVABLE      Felony 2  
PROPERTY

The actor unlawfully took or exercised unlawful control over movable property, namely, United States currency approximating \$293,981.51, with a value of at least \$100,000 but less than \$500,000, from The Fort Pitt Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and/or The Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, with the intent to deprive the owner thereof, in violation of Section 3921(a) and Section 3903(a)(5) of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, Act of December 6, 1972, 18 Pa. C.S. §3921(a) and §3903(a)(5), as amended.

Count: 2      RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY      Felony 2

The actor intentionally received, retained, or disposed of property, namely, United States currency approximating \$293,981.51, valued at \$100,000 or greater, but less than \$500,000, belonging to The Fort Pitt Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and/or The Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution knowing that it had been stolen, or believing that it had probably been stolen and without intent to restore it to the owner thereof, in violation of Section 3925 and Section 3903(a)(5) of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, Act of December 6, 1972, 18 Pa. C.S. §3925 and §3903(a)(5), as amended.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

vs

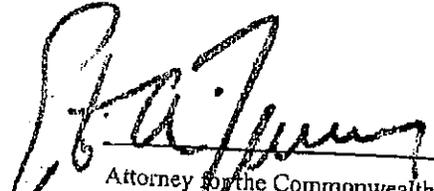
Rebecca Catherine Stein

Count: 3 MISAPPLICATION OF ENTRUSTED PROPERTY AND  
PROPERTY OF GOVERNMENT OR FINANCIAL  
INSTITUTIONS

Misdemeanor 2

The actor applied or disposed of property valued at more than \$50, namely, United States Currency approximating \$293,981.51, that had been entrusted to the actor as a fiduciary, or property of the government or of a financial institution, in a manner which said actor knew was unlawful and involved substantial risk of loss or detriment to the owner of the property or to a person for whose benefit the property was entrusted, in violation of Sections 4113(a) and (b) of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, Act of December 6, 1972, 18 Pa.C.S. §§ 4113(a) and (b), as amended.

All of which is against the Act of Assembly and the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

  
Attorney for the Commonwealth  
Stephen A. Zappala

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
v.  
Rebecca Catherine Stein

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF  
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

CRIMINAL DIVISION

DOCKET NO: CP-02-CR-0007485-2023  
DATE OF ARREST:  
OTN: R 912711-2  
SID: [REDACTED]  
DOB: 01/27/1990

### ORDER OF SENTENCE

AND NOW, this 22nd day of February, 2024, the defendant having been convicted in the above-captioned case is hereby sentenced by this Court as follows. The defendant is to pay all applicable fees and costs unless otherwise noted below:

Count 1 - 18 § 3921 §§ A - Theft By Unlaw Taking-Movable Prop (F2)  
Offense Disposition: Withdrawn

Count 2 - 18 § 3925 §§ A - Receiving Stolen Property (F2)  
Offense Disposition: Withdrawn

Count 3 - 18 § 4113 §§ A - Misapply Entrusted/Govt/Fin Inst Prop (M2)

To be placed on Probation - County Regular Probation - for a minimum period of 2 Year(s) and a maximum period of 2 Year(s) to be supervised by County Probation.

The following conditions are imposed:

Treatment: Defendant is to continue Mental Health treatment.

Comply - Rules of Probation And Parole: Defendant to comply with all Allegheny County General Rules of Probation and Parole.

Restitution: Restitution was paid in full via check directly to victim prior to plea.

This sentence shall commence on 02/22/2024.

BY THE COURT:



Judge Beth A. Lazzarini



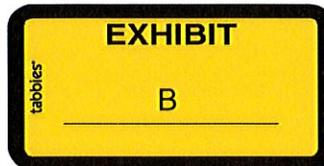
DIRECTOR, DEPT OF COURT RECORDS



CLERK

CPCMS2066

Printed: 02/22/2024 11:23:00AM



BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, : No. 3041 Disciplinary Docket  
: No. 3

Petitioner :  
: No. 39 DB 2024

v.

REBECCA CATHERINE STEIN, : Attorney Registration No. 321862

Respondent : (Allegheny County)

VERIFICATION

The statements contained in the foregoing Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent Under Rule 215(d), Pa.R.D.E. are true and correct to the best of my knowledge or information and belief and are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. §4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

3/12/25

Date



LaTammie D. Bivins  
Disciplinary Counsel

3/11/25

Date



Rebecca Catherine Stein  
Respondent

3/11/25

Date



Ryan H. James, Esquire  
Counsel for Respondent

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, : No. 3041 Disciplinary Docket  
: No. 3  
Petitioner :  
: No. 39 DB 2024  
v. :  
: REBECCA CATHERINE STEIN, : Attorney Registration No. 321862  
: Respondent : (Allegheny County)

AFFIDAVIT UNDER RULE 215(d), Pa.R.D.E.

Respondent, Rebecca Catherine Stein, hereby states that she consents to a suspension of three years, retroactive to the effective date of the temporary suspension, as jointly recommended by Petitioner, Office of Disciplinary Counsel, and Respondent, in the Joint Petition in Support Of Discipline On Consent, and further states that:

1. She is an attorney admitted in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, having been admitted to the bar on April 28, 2016.

2. She desires to submit a Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent Pursuant to Rule 215(d), Pa.R.D.E.

3. Her consent is freely and voluntarily rendered; she is not being subjected to coercion or duress; and she is fully aware of the implications of submitting this affidavit.

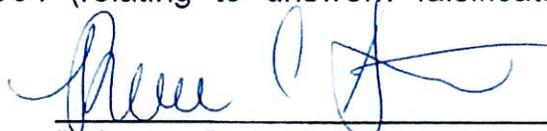
4. She is aware that there is a pending proceeding involving allegations that she has been guilty of misconduct, as set forth in the Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on consent Pursuant to Rule 215(d), Pa.R.D.E., to which this affidavit is attached.

5. She acknowledges that the material facts set forth in the Joint Petition are true.

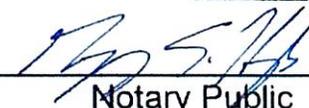
6. She consents because she knows that if the matter pending against her is prosecuted, she could not successfully defend against the charges.

7. She acknowledges that she is fully aware of her right to consult and employ counsel to represent her in the instant proceeding. She has retained, consulted or acted upon the advice of counsel in connection with her decision to execute the within Joint Petition.

It is understood that the statements made herein are subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S.A. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rebecca Catherine Stein  
Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed  
before me this 11 day of March, 2025.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal  
Gregory S. Hughes, Notary Public  
Allegheny County  
My commission expires October 6, 2027  
Commission number 1293713  
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, : No. 3041 Disciplinary Docket  
: No. 3

Petitioner :  
: No. 39 DB 2024

v.

REBECCA CATHERINE STEIN, : Attorney Registration No. 321862

Respondent : (Allegheny County)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I am this day serving the foregoing documents upon all parties of record in this proceeding in accordance with the requirements of 204 Pa.C.S. §89.22 (relating to service by a participant).

By Email: Ryan H. James, Esquire  
James Law, LLC  
1200 Lincoln Way  
White Oak, PA 15131  
([ryan@rhjameslaw.com](mailto:ryan@rhjameslaw.com))

(Counsel for Respondent)

Dated: 3/12/2025 \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_  
LaTammie D. Bivins, Reg. No. 79599  
Disciplinary Counsel  
Office of Disciplinary Counsel  
District IV Office  
Suite 1300, Frick Building  
437 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
(412) 565-3173

**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts* that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

Submitted by: LaTammie D. Bivins

Signature: 

Name: LaTammie D. Bivins

Attorney No. (if applicable): 79599