

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

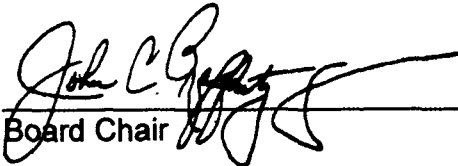
OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL : No. 69 DB 2024  
Petitioner :  
v. :  
JOHN PAUL SENICH, JR. : Attorney Registration No. 317813  
Respondent : (Allegheny County)

**ORDER**

AND NOW, this 29<sup>TH</sup> day of August, 2024, in accordance with Rule 208(a)(5), Pa.R.D.E., the determination by a Review Panel of the Disciplinary Board of the above captioned matter is accepted; and it is

ORDERED that the said JOHN PAUL SENICH, JR. be subjected to a PUBLIC REPRIMAND by the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania as provided in Rule 204(a) and Rule 205(c)(8) of the Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement. Costs shall be paid by the Respondent.

BY THE BOARD:

  
Board Chair

TRUE COPY FROM RECORD

Attest:



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Marcee D. Sloan  
Board Prothonotary  
The Disciplinary Board of the  
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

**BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL,	:	No. 69 DB 2024
Petitioner	:	
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	:	
v.	:	
	:	Attorney Reg. No. 317813
JOHN PAUL SENICH, JR.,	:	
Respondent	:	(Allegheny County)

**PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

John Paul Senich, Jr., you appear before the Disciplinary Board for the imposition of a Public Reprimand ordered by the Board on August 29, 2024. By letter dated September 4, 2024, the Board notified you of the disposition of this matter and further notified you of your opportunity to demand as of right the institution of formal charges within twenty days of the date of notification. You did not demand the institution of formal charges; therefore, you accept this public reprimand.

It is an unpleasant task to publicly reprimand one who has been granted the privilege of membership in the bar of the Commonwealth. Yet as repugnant as this task may be, it has been found necessary that you receive this public discipline.

Attorney Senich, the record shows that you committed misconduct in two separate client matters.

In the first matter, Kelly VanEpps Shiray engaged your law firm to represent her in a civil action against Gabriel Minjarez, the owner of the real property that she rented, regarding the owner's breach of their rent-to-own agreement. In August 2021, an attorney from your firm filed on Ms. Shiray's behalf, a complaint in civil action in the Court of Common Pleas of Mercer County. In September 2022, pursuant to your

counsel, Ms. Shiray settled the civil proceeding in exchange for Mr. Minjarez transferring the property to Ms. Shiray. At the time, there were outstanding real estate taxes in the amount of \$1,393.01. A release executed by Ms. Shiray and Mr. Minjarez obligated Mr. Minjarez to pay the taxes, but he failed to do so.

Thereafter, your client communicated with you by text on a frequent basis to determine if the taxes had been paid. You texted your client that if you could not get an answer from Mr. Minjarez's attorney, you would file a notice to enforce settlement. Although you did not receive a response from the other attorney, you failed to file a Motion to Enforce Settlement on your client's behalf. On November 18, 2022, Ms. Shiray texted you for a status update, and you texted back several days later and said "the court is going to schedule a hearing on the motion to enforce settlement." However, you had not filed such a motion, so your representation was false. In your response to Office of Disciplinary Counsel's DB-7 request for statement of your position, you admitted you did not file a Motion to Enforce Settlement, but claimed that your text about the court scheduling a hearing was simply inaccurate, as you meant to indicate that you could file a motion, after which the court would schedule a hearing.

In the second matter, Matthew Duddy pled guilty to possession of child pornography and was sentenced to confinement for 41 months, followed by 25 years of supervision. In December 2021, Mr. Duddy retained you to seek an early termination of supervision, in exchange for legal fees in the amount of \$12,000. Mr. Duddy paid the legal fees in full in December 2021. In July 2022, you filed a Motion to Terminate Supervised Release on your client's behalf. The United States filed a response in opposition. On August 12, 2022, you met with Mr. Duddy, at which time, Mr. Duddy provided a draft supplement to the Motion to Terminate and you advised that you would

prepare a motion seeking the release of transcripts from polygraph examinations and a final psychological report that had been issued by Clover Psychological Associates. On August 1, 2022, you filed a Motion to Supplement, the motion was granted, and you were directed to file the supplemental petition by August 26, 2022. After seeking and obtaining an extension, the court directed that you file the supplemental petition by September 26, 2022. Thereafter, you failed to file any supplement to the Motion to Terminate, or any motion seeking the release of transcripts or the final psychological report. By email of October 3, 2022, your client requested a status update, and your reply to him indicated you had heard nothing from the court. By Order dated October 6, 2022, the Motion to Terminate was denied. The court noted that Mr. Duddy requested and was granted the opportunity to supplement his motion, but nothing was filed. You failed to promptly advise your client of the October 6, 2022 order and later, when Mr. Duddy emailed and asked if you had filed the supplement, you initially failed to respond, but thereafter advised Mr. Duddy that “the clerk refused to accept” the supplement because it contained personal information. Mr. Duddy expressed his dissatisfaction with your representation and terminated your services. You failed thereafter to withdraw your appearance. Office of Disciplinary Counsel requested a statement of your position by DB-7 letter dated March 12, 2024; you failed to respond.

By your conduct, you violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct (“RPC”):

1. RPC 1.1 – (Duddy matter) – A lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client. Competent representation requires the legal

knowledge, skill, thoroughness and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation.

2. RPC 1.3 (VanEpps Shiray and Duddy matters) – A lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client.
3. RPC 1.4(a)(3) (Duddy matter) - A lawyer shall keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the matter.
4. RPC 1.4(a)(4) (Duddy matter) - A lawyer shall promptly comply with reasonable requests for information.
5. RPC 1.4(b) (Duddy matter) – A lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation.
6. RPC 1.16 (a)(3) (Duddy matter) – A lawyer shall not represent a client or, where representation has commenced, shall withdraw from the representation if the lawyer is discharged.
7. RPC 8.4(c) (VanEpps Shiray matter) - It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.
8. Pa.R.D.E. 203(b)(7) (Duddy matter) – Failure by a respondent-attorney without good cause to respond to Disciplinary Counsel’s request or supplemental request under Disciplinary Board Rules, § 87.7(b) for a statement of the respondent-attorney’s position is a ground for discipline.

Attorney Senich, your conduct in this matter is public. This Public Reprimand is a matter of public record and shall be posted on the Disciplinary Board’s website at

[www.padisiplinaryboard.org](http://www.padisiplinaryboard.org).

It is the Board's duty to reprimand you for your misconduct. We note that you have no record of attorney discipline. Please be aware that any subsequent violations on your part can only result in further discipline and more severe sanctions. We sincerely hope that you will conduct yourself in such a manner that future disciplinary action will be unnecessary.

*S/Celeste Dee*

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Designated Member  
The Disciplinary Board of the  
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

Administered by a designated panel of three Members of The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania on December 11, 2024.