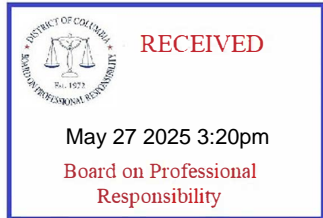


**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS
BOARD ON PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**



In the Matter of	:	
	:	Board Docket No.
SOLON PHILLIPS, ESQUIRE,	:	
	:	Disciplinary Docket No. 2023-D166
Respondent,	:	
	:	
A Member of the Bar of the District	:	
of Columbia Court of Appeals.	:	
Bar Number: 1602416	:	
Date of Admission: September 23, 2019	:	
	:	

PETITION FOR NEGOTIATED DISCIPLINE

Disciplinary Counsel and Respondent Solon Phillips agree to enter into a negotiated discipline pursuant to D.C. Bar Rule XI, § 12.1 and Board Rule 17. Phillips is the subject of the above-referenced investigation by Disciplinary Counsel pursuant to D.C. Bar Rule XI §§ 6(a)(2), 8(a), and Board Rule 2.1.

Phillips is an attorney admitted to practice before the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

I. Statement of the Nature of the Matter

Disciplinary Counsel received a complaint alleging that Phillips engaged in the unauthorized practice of law by maintaining a law office in Maryland despite not being licensed to practice in the state. In 2019, Phillips established Remus Enterprises Law Group and registered the firm with the state of Maryland using his

home address in Bowie, Maryland. While Phillips also maintains an office in the District of Columbia, Phillips has used his home address on his letterhead, engagement agreements and court filings without clearly noting that he is not licensed to practice law in Maryland.

II. Stipulation of Facts and Charges

The conduct and standards that Phillips stipulates to are as follows:

1. Phillips was admitted to the D.C. Bar on September 23, 2019, and assigned Bar Number 1602416. Phillips is also admitted to practice in Alabama. He was previously admitted in Washington State, but he voluntarily resigned in 2024. Phillips has applied for but he has never been granted admission to practice law in Maryland.

2. In 2019, Phillips formed the law firm Remus Enterprises Law Group, LLC. He registered the firm with the state of Maryland, using his home address in Bowie, Maryland, as the Firm's principal address. Phillips uses the address on his letterhead, signature block, and public filings on behalf of clients without noting that he is not licensed to practice in Maryland. He also conducts all of his work out of his home, including virtual meetings with clients, electronic communications with clients and opposing counsel, drafting pleadings and conducting legal research.

3. Phillips conduct violated Rule of Professional Conduct 5.5(a), in that Phillips established a law office in Maryland without being admitted to practice in

Maryland, in violation of Maryland Rule 19-305.5(b).

IV. The Agreed-Upon Sanction

A. Agreed Sanction

4. Phillips and Disciplinary Counsel have agreed that the appropriate sanction for the stipulated misconduct in violation of Rule 5.5(a) is a suspension from the practice of law for thirty days, fully stayed on the condition that Phillips be placed on probation for a period of six months, to commence upon approval by the D.C. Court of Appeals.

5. During the period of probation, Phillips shall comply with the following terms:

a. He shall meet with and obtain an assessment from the District of Columbia's Practice Management Advisory Service and comply with and implement any recommendations of PMAS.

b. Phillips will execute a waiver allowing the assigned practice monitor to communicate directly with the Office of Disciplinary Counsel regarding his compliance. The assigned practice monitor will conduct a full assessment of Phillips's practices, including but not limited to reviewing letterheads, engagement letters, law firm advertisements, law firm website, and supervision and training of staff. The assigned practice monitor shall take steps to ensure that Phillips is aware of and has taken steps to avoid the unauthorized practice of law in Maryland,

including removing his home address from all law firm templates and advising all clients in writing that he is not licensed to practice Maryland law.

c. Phillips shall not be found to have engaged in any unethical conduct before the probationary period expires.

d. During the six-month probation, Phillips shall inform all clients, in writing, that he is serving a term of probation.

6. If Phillips fails to comply with the terms of his probation, his probation may be revoked and he may be required to serve the thirty day suspension previously stayed herein, consecutively with any other discipline or suspension that may be imposed in the event of a finding that he engaged in further unethical conduct.

B. Relevant Precedent

7. Sanctions for violations of Rule 5.5(a) range from informal admonitions to a suspensory sanction. *See, e.g., In re Lea*, 13 A.3d 770 (D.C. 2011) (Six-month suspension for violating Rules 5.5(a), 7.1, 7.5, 8.1(b), and 8.4(c,d)); *In re Soinen*, 853 A.2d 712 (D.C. 2004) (Six-month suspension for violating Rules 3.3(a), 5.5(a), and 8.4(c,d)); *In re Schoeneman*, 891 A.2d 279 (D.C. 2006) (Four-month suspension for violating Rules 1.1(a), 1.3(a,b), 1.4(a), 1.16(d), 5.5(a), and 8.4(c,d)); *In re Gonzalez-Perez*, 917 A.2d 869 (D.C. 2007) (Ninety-day suspended for violating Rules 3.3(a), 5.5(a), and 8.4(c,d)); *In re Jonathan Linde*, DDN 2016-D150 (Aug. 21, 2017); *In re Max*, DDN 2016-D332 (July 28, 2017); *In re Vohra*,

DDN 2003-D163 (Dec. 27, 2007); *In re Dodds*, DDN 2003-063 (Feb. 9, 2007); and *In re Geoffrey Cooper*, DDN 2004-D422 (Mar. 30, 2005).

8. The agreed sanction of a thirty-day suspension fully stayed in favor of six months' probation is justified in this case because it is within the range of sanctions. Phillips's violation of Rule 5.5(a) is more serious than the typical case involving only the unauthorized practice of law because he has been previously found to have engaged in the unauthorized practice of law in Maryland. In 2017, the Court of Appeals of Maryland disciplined Phillips's father for, in part, helping Phillips engage in the unauthorized practice of law in 2014. *See Att'y Grievance Comm'n v. Phillips*, 155 A.3d 476 (2017) and *In re Phillips*, 175 A.3d 824 (Md. 2017). Accordingly, Phillips's unauthorized practice warrants greater discipline because of his prior history of the same conduct.

C. Mitigating Circumstances

9. The sanction also considers the mitigating factors, which include: (a) Phillips has had no prior discipline since he became licensed to practice law; (b) Phillips has taken full responsibility for his misconduct and has demonstrated remorse; and (c) Phillips has fully cooperated with Disciplinary Counsel, including meeting with Disciplinary Counsel, and providing written responses and client records.

Respectfully submitted,

Hamilton P. Fox III

Hamilton P. Fox III
Disciplinary Counsel



Solon Phillips
Respondent

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