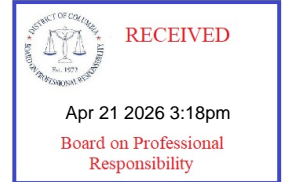


**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS
BOARD ON PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**



In the Matter of :
 :
Brandon M. Burrell, :
 : **Disciplinary Docket No. 2024-D186**
Respondent :
 :
A Member of the Bar of the District: :
of Columbia Court of Appeals :
 :
(Bar Registration No. 1030052) :
 :

SPECIFICATION OF CHARGES

The disciplinary proceeding instituted by this petition is based upon conduct that violates the standards governing the practice of law in the District of Columbia as prescribed by D.C. Bar. R. X and XI, § 2(b). Jurisdiction for this disciplinary proceeding is prescribed by D.C. Bar. R. XI. Pursuant to D.C. Bar R. XI, § 1(a), jurisdiction is found because:

1. Brandon Burrell, Respondent, is a member of the Bar of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, having been admitted on January 8, 2016, and assigned Bar number 1030052.

The facts giving rise to the charges of misconduct are as follows:

2. Burrell and Igho Oraka are the parents of K.O., a child born in 2017. They lived in the District of Columbia at the time.

3. As of October 3, 2019, Burrell owed \$6,726 in child support arrears to

Oraka. The District of Columbia Superior Court entered an order requiring Burrell to pay \$1,836 per month as well as \$164 per month toward the arrears.

4. Between October 2019 and March 2021, Burrell did not make all the required child support payments.

5. By March 15, 2021, Oraka had relocated to Illinois with K.O. and registered the D.C. court's child support order there. Burrell had relocated to Maryland.

6. As of April 28, 2021, Burrell owed \$11,804 in unpaid child support. Oraka filed a petition for Uniform Support Order with the Illinois court, asking that Burrell be required to pay the outstanding arrearage.

7. On September 2, 2021, the Illinois court entered an order requiring the parties to exchange financial information and set the matter for a status hearing on Oraka's Petition for Rule to Show Cause regarding Burrell's failure to pay child support.

8. During pre-trial negotiations on June 7, 2022, Oraka and Burrell reached an agreement that Burrell owed \$27,309 in past due child support and agreed on a payment schedule: \$4,000 on the 1st of August, \$4,000 on the 1st of September, \$4,000 on the 1st of October, \$4,000 on the 1st of November, and \$2,500 on the 1st of every month thereafter until the arrearage was paid in full. The Illinois court issued an order memorializing that agreement, finding that Burrell owed \$27,309 in

child support and setting the payment schedule the parties had agreed to.

9. Burrell did not make the required child support payments.

10. On September 15, 2022, the Illinois court entered a judgment against Burrell for \$13,624.71 in attorney's fees - which was considered a domestic support obligation under 11 USC §523(a)(5) that was non-dischargeable in bankruptcy because it was a debt under a domestic relations order.

11. Burrell did not pay the attorney's fees.

12. On November 3, 2022, the Illinois court issued an order requiring Burrell to show cause why he should not be held in contempt for failure to comply with the court's orders to pay child support. Burrell was ordered to appear via Zoom for a hearing on January 18, 2023, and respond to the show cause order.

13. Burrell did not appear for the January 18, 2023, Zoom hearing.

14. The next day, the Illinois court issued an order holding Burrell in contempt for failure to pay child support as detailed in the June 7, 2022, order. Commitment was stayed until March 1, 2023, with a purge amount of \$16,000. The court also scheduled an in-person court date for March 22, 2023, and required Burrell to appear in person on that date, stating that "failure to appear may result in the issuance of a bodily attachment."

15. Burrell did not pay the purge amount.

16. When Burrell did not appear in person at the March 22, 2023, hearing,

the court issued another contempt order, this time committing Burrell to the Cook County Jail with a purge amount that was increased to \$25,000 due to his ongoing violations of court orders. Burrell was not actually sent to jail that day because he had not appeared at the hearing.

17. As of May 10, 2023, Burrell owed Oraka \$49,013 in past-due child support and \$23,405.39 in attorney's fees Oraka incurred while attempting to collect the child support.

18. On May 17, 2023, the Illinois court entered a \$72,418.39 judgment against Burrell representing the combined amount of the unpaid child support and Oraka's attorney's fees. The court found Burrell's "continued non-compliance with the court ordered payments... to be willful and contumacious." The order further stated, "[t]he purge and body attachments as detailed in both March 22, 2023 Court Orders of Adjudication of Indirect Civil Contempt and Order of Commitment remain in full force and effect."

19. On September 28, 2024, Oraka filed a complaint with the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

20. The complaint was forwarded to Burrell and he responded on October 23, 2024. In his response, Burrell admitted that he had not made all of the required child support payments.

21. As of the date of the filing of this Specification of Charges, Burrell has

VERIFICATION

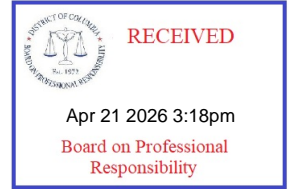
I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that I verily believe that the facts stated in the Specification of Charges to be true and correct.

Executed on this 7th day of April, 2026.

/s/

Jelani Lowery
Assistant Disciplinary Counsel

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



In the Matter of

BRANDON M. BURRELL, ESQUIRE,

Respondent,

:
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:

: Disciplinary Docket No. 2024-D186

PETITION INSTITUTING FORMAL DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

A. This Petition (including the attached Specification of Charges which is made part of this Petition) notifies Respondent that disciplinary proceedings are hereby instituted pursuant to Rule XI, § 8(c), of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals’ Rules Governing the Bar (D.C. Bar R.).

B. Respondent is an attorney admitted to practice before the District of Columbia Court of Appeals on the date stated in the caption of the Specification of Charges.

C. A lawyer member of a Hearing Committee assigned by the Board on Professional Responsibility (Board) pursuant to D.C. Bar R. XI, § 4(e)(5), has approved the institution of these disciplinary proceedings.

D. **Procedures**

(1) **Referral to Hearing Committee** – When the Board receives the Petition Instituting Formal Disciplinary Proceedings, the Board shall refer it to a Hearing Committee.

(2) **Filing Answer** – Respondent must respond to the Specification of Charges by filing an answer with the Board and by serving a copy on the Office of Disciplinary Counsel within 20 days of the date of service of this Petition, unless the time is extended by the Chair of the Hearing Committee. Permission to file an answer after the 20-day period may be granted by the Chair of the Hearing Committee if the failure to file an answer was attributable to mistake, inadvertence, surprise, or excusable neglect. If a limiting date occurs on a Saturday, Sunday, or official holiday in the District of Columbia, the time for submission will be extended to the next business day. Any motion to extend the time to file an answer, and/or any other motion filed with the Board or Hearing Committee Chair, must be served on the Office of Disciplinary Counsel at the address shown on the last page of this petition.

(3) **Content of Answer** – The answer may be a denial, a statement in exculpation, or a statement in mitigation of the alleged misconduct. Any charges not answered by Respondent may be deemed established as provided in Board Rule 7.7.

(4) **Mitigation** – Respondent has the right to present evidence in mitigation to the Hearing Committee regardless of whether the substantive allegations of the Specification of Charges are admitted or denied.

(5) **Process** – Respondent is entitled to fifteen days’ notice of the time and place of hearing, to be represented by counsel, to cross-examine witnesses, and to present evidence.

E. In addition to the procedures contained in D.C. Bar R. XI, the Board has promulgated Board Rules relating to procedures and the admission of evidence which are applicable to these procedures. A copy of these rules is being provided to Respondent with a copy of this Petition.

WHEREFORE, the Office of Disciplinary Counsel requests that the Board consider whether the conduct of Respondent violated the District of Columbia Rules of Professional Conduct, and, if so, that it impose/recommend appropriate discipline.

/s/ Hamilton P. Fox, III

Hamilton P. Fox, III
Disciplinary Counsel

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