

**ATTORNEY GRIEVANCE COMMISSION
OF MARYLAND**

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNSEL AND DIRECTOR

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MARIANNE J. LEE
EXECUTIVE COUNSEL & DIRECTOR

January 21, 2022

David Errol Tompkins, Esquire
836 Bonifant Street
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: BC Docket No. 2021-0770
Complainant: Bar Counsel

Dear Mr. Tompkins:

The Attorney Grievance Commission, at its meeting on January 19, 2022, approved the proposed Reprimand agreed upon by you and Bar Counsel and directed that this letter of Reprimand be administered to you.

Pursuant to Maryland Rule 19-717, the Attorney Grievance Commission of Maryland hereby reprimands David Errol Tompkins, Respondent, for engaging in professional misconduct that violated Rules 7.1 and 7.2 of the Maryland Lawyers' Rules of Professional Conduct and Rules 19-307.1 and 19-307.2 of the Maryland Attorneys' Rules of Professional Conduct.

On September 30, 2014, the Respondent received a warning for posting an electronic newsletter on his firm's website offering to pay a referral fee, in the amount of \$200.00, for new clients. In 2014, the Respondent acknowledged that his conduct violated Rule 7.2(c) of Maryland Lawyers' Rules of Professional Conduct, in effect at the time. The Respondent removed the referral fee offer from the newsletter and advised Bar Counsel that no referral fees had been paid.

Despite the 2014 warning, the Respondent thereafter routinely disseminated a newsletter to his clients via email that stated, "Refer us a client, we will give you \$200.00." Between November 2015 and April 2021, the Respondent paid referral fees totaling \$39,000.00 to 194 former Maryland clients, and paid referral fees totaling \$27,200.00 to 136 former District of Columbia clients.

In addition, beginning in 2019, the Respondent's email newsletter

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included an offer to purchase a dashcam for any client who left a 5-star review on Google.com related to the Respondent's firm. Between December 2019 and May 2021, the Respondent purchased fifty-one (51) dashcams for former clients in exchange for positive Google reviews.

The Respondent's conduct violated Rule 7.1 (Communications Concerning a Lawyer's Services) and Rule 7.2 (Advertising) of the Maryland Lawyers' Rules of Professional Conduct for the conduct occurring prior to July 1, 2016 and Rule 19-307.1 (Communications Concerning an Attorney's Services) and Rule 19-307.2 (Advertising) of the Maryland Attorneys' Rules of Professional Conduct for the conduct occurring on or after July 1, 2016.

The Maryland Rules provide that a reprimand constitutes discipline which is public and open to inspection.

Sincerely,



Marianne J. Lee
Executive Counsel & Director

MJL/sg

cc: John A. Bourgeois, Esquire
Brittany L. Strickland, Esquire

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