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

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

Petitioner

No. 112 DB 2016

File Nos. C3-16-298 & C3-16-306

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Attorney Registration No. 87000

JOHN JOSEPH MANGAN, III

Respondent

(Cumberland County)

## PUBLIC REPRIMAND

John Joseph Mangan, III, you stand before the Disciplinary Board, your professional peers and members of the public for the imposition of a Public Reprimand. It is an unpleasant task to publicly reprimand one who has been granted the privilege of membership in the bar of this Commonwealth. Yet as repugnant as this task may be, it has been deemed necessary that you receive this public discipline.

Mr. Mangan, you are being reprimanded today in connection with your misconduct in two clients matters and your failure to respond to Office of Disciplinary Counsel. In the first matter, on March 25, 2014, Brandy M. Stouffer paid you \$1,500.00 for representation related to the adoption of a minor child. Thereafter, Ms. Stouffer and Thomas J. Misner signed a Petition for Adoption, which you subsequently failed to file. On November 16, 2015, Ms. Stouffer paid you \$354.00 to draft and file a Petition to Modify related to her existing custody agreement. Approximately six weeks later, on December 30, 2015, Ms. Stouffer emailed you to inquire about the status of her Petition to Modify and the adoption proceeding. On January 18, 2016, you emailed a draft of the Petition to Modify to Ms. Stouffer, concerning which she provided proposed changes to you the same day. Thereafter, you failed to promptly make the changes and file the Petition to Modify.

In March 2016, Ms. Stouffer emailed you and called your office on multiple occasions to inquire about the status of her legal matters. You failed to respond to any of these communications. By email dated March 15, 2016, Ms. Stouffer requested the return of her file. Again, you failed to respond to this communication. Ms. Stouffer scheduled a meeting for March 30, 2016, to retrieve her file and speak with you. She was able to retrieve her file on that date, but was not able to speak with you as you did not appear for the scheduled meeting.

In the second matter, on August 22, 2014, Cynthia L. King contacted you by email regarding representation in her divorce proceeding. That same day, you agreed to accept the representation and asked Ms. King to bring in copies of all documentation. On or about August 22, 2014, Ms. King paid you a \$1,000.00 retainer for your services. On September 8, 2014, you entered your appearance in the divorce matter and filed a Petition and Counterclaim. Ms. King emailed you with additional documents and information and requested updates on her case between August 2014 and February 2015, but you failed to respond to any of these communications. On February 27, 2015, you indicated to Ms. King that you would be filing paperwork that day. However, the docket revealed that nothing was filed until a Motion for Appointment of Master was filed ten days later. Ms. King retrieved her file from you, but is still awaiting a requested accounting and refund.

On March 24, 2016, Office of Disciplinary Counsel sent you a DB-7 Request for your position on these matters. You accepted the certified mailing on May 26, 2016. Your response was due on or before June 23, 2016, but you failed to submit a response or otherwise communicate with Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

Your conduct in these matters has violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct ("RPC") and Pennsylvania Rule of Disciplinary Enforcement ("Pa. R.D.E."):

- RPC 1.3 A lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client.
- 2. RPC 1.4(a)(2), (3), and (4) A lawyer shall reasonably consult with the client about the means by which the client's objectives are to be accomplished, keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the matter, and promptly comply with reasonably requests for information.
- RPC 8.1(b) A lawyer in connection with a disciplinary matter shall not knowingly fail to respond to a lawful demand for information from disciplinary authorities.
- 4. Pa.R.D.E. 203(b)(7) Failure by a respondent-attorney without good cause to respond to Disciplinary Counsel's request under Disciplinary Board Rules, §87.7(b), for a statement of the respondent-attorney's position shall be a ground for discipline.

We note that you have a record of prior discipline consisting of Informal Admonitions imposed in 2006 and 2012, for misconduct involving failure to communicate and lack of diligence, conduct that is similar to the misconduct at issue today. Your record of discipline is an aggravating factor and supports the imposition of a public reprimand.

Mr. Mangan, your conduct in this matter is now fully public. This Public Reprimand is a matter of public record.

As you stand before the Board today, we remind you that you have a continuing obligation to abide by the Rules of Professional Conduct and Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement. Pennsylvania lawyers will not be permitted to engage in conduct that falls below professional standards. Be mindful that any future dereliction will subject you to disciplinary action.

This Public Reprimand will be posted on the Disciplinary Board's website at www.padisciplinaryboard.org.

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, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on September 28, 2016.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

The undersigned, Respondent in the above proceeding, herewith acknowledges that the above Public Reprimand was administered in his presence and in the presence of the designated panel of The Disciplinary Board at 1601 Market Street, Suite 3320, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on September 28, 2016.

John Joseph Mangan, III