

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

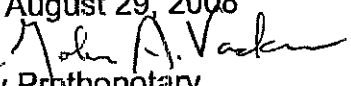
OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, : No. 1385 Disciplinary Docket No. 3  
Petitioner :  
 : No. 26 DB 2008  
v. :  
 : Attorney Registration No. 68473  
JOHN H. CROOM, IV, :  
Respondent : (Philadelphia)

ORDER

PER CURIAM

AND NOW, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2008, upon consideration of the Recommendation of the Three-Member Panel of the Disciplinary Board dated April 23, 2008, the Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent is hereby granted pursuant to Rule 215(g), Pa.R.D.E., and it is

ORDERED that John H. Croom, IV, is suspended on consent from the Bar of this Commonwealth for a period of one year and one day and he shall comply with all the provisions of Rule 217, Pa.R.D.E.

A True Copy John A. Vaskov  
As of: August 29, 2008  
Attest:   
Deputy Prothonotary  
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

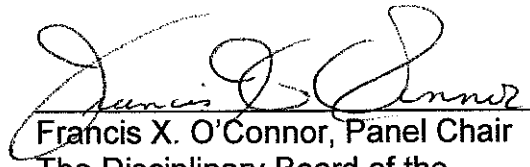
OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL : No. 26 DB 2008  
Petitioner :  
v. : Attorney Registration No. 68473  
JOHN H. CROOM, IV :  
Respondent : (Philadelphia)

RECOMMENDATION OF THREE-MEMBER PANEL  
OF THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

The Three-Member Panel of the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, consisting of Board Members Francis X. O'Connor, Donald E. Wright, Jr., and Robert C. Saidis, has reviewed the Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent filed in the above-captioned matter on March 6, 2008.

The Panel approves the Joint Petition consenting to a One Year and One Day Suspension and recommends to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania that the attached Petition be Granted.

The Panel further recommends that any necessary expenses incurred in the investigation and prosecution of this matter shall be paid by the respondent-attorney as a condition to the grant of the Petition.

  
Francis X. O'Connor, Panel Chair  
The Disciplinary Board of the  
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

Date: April 23, 2008



and to prosecute all disciplinary proceedings brought in accordance with the various provisions of said Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement.

2. Respondent, John H. Croom, IV, was born on June 21, 1965, and was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth on June 17, 1993.

3. Respondent's attorney registration address was 1616 Walnut Street, Suite 1908, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Respondent has closed his office at that address and he has moved from his residence at 22 Clemson Drive, Boothwyn, PA 19061.

4. Pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 201(a)(1), Respondent is subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

## II. FACTUAL ADMISSIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

5. Respondent specifically admits to the truth of the factual allegations and conclusions of law contained in paragraphs 6 through 77, *infra*.

### CHARGE I: FILE NO. C1-07-637

6. In or about March 2007, Mr. and Mrs. Driscoll retained Respondent to file a Chapter 13 Bankruptcy for them.

7. Respondent had not previously represented the Driscolls.

8. Respondent failed to communicate the basis or rate of his fee to the Driscolls, in writing, before or within a reasonable time after commencing the representation.

9. As requested, Mr. Driscoll paid Respondent \$1,500 in cash.

10. Respondent failed to deposit those funds into a separate account until earned.

11. On or about March 9, 2007, Respondent filed a Chapter 13 Petition for Bankruptcy, in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Petition No. 07-11440-dws, on behalf of Ernest Driscoll.

12. On or about March 12, 2007, an Order was entered that unless missing documents were filed, the case would be dismissed without additional notice or hearing.

13. On or about April 2, 2007, Respondent filed a Chapter 13 Plan for Mr. Driscoll.

14. On or about May 8, 2007, following a letter sent by Mr. Driscoll to the court, it was ordered that "on the foregoing conduct," Respondent was discharged from the bankruptcy case and was to disgorge \$1,226 to Ernest

Driscoll by May 11, 2007, so Mr. Driscoll could retain new counsel.

15. Respondent had abandoned his representation of Mr. Driscoll.

16. Respondent failed to appear at the Show Cause Hearing.

17. Eric Sabo, Esquire, from Respondent's office, represented Mr. Driscoll at the May 8, 2007 hearing.

18. During testimony at the hearing, Mr. Driscoll stated that Respondent's paralegal "Dan" dealt with the Driscolls.

19. Under a Consent Order dated May 11, 2007, entered and signed by Diane W. Sigmund, Chief, United States Bankruptcy Judge, in a case captioned *In the matter of John H. Croom, an Attorney at Law*, United States Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Misc. No. 07-3007-dws, Respondent consented:

- a. to have the ECF filing number designated for his use suspended and the Clerk of the Court was directed not to issue a new filing number nor to accept further filings from Respondent without further Order of the Court;

- b. effective May 17, 2007, to be enjoined from appearing before the Bankruptcy Court as counsel for debtors, and further enjoined from rendering bankruptcy services to persons who are debtors having matters before the Court, with the exception of prosecuting his own fee applications;
- c. to be further enjoined from preparing or assisting in preparation of Petitions, Schedules or any other documents to be filed with the court and/or from filing the same with the Court, or otherwise from serving as a debt relief agency or petition preparer in the Court;
- d. to send, within 5 days of the Order, each of his bankruptcy clients having an open case in the Court a letter advising that Respondent was no longer able to continue representing them and that Respondent would make the files available to them;
- e. to send a generic copy of the letter required to be sent to clients to the United States Trustee; and

f. to have the Order remain in full force and effect until such time as Respondent applied to the court and demonstrated that he was rehabilitated and the court entered further Order rescinding this Order and reinstating Respondent's privilege before the court.

20. Respondent failed to comply with this Order when he did not notify the Driscolls of his inability to further represent them.

21. Respondent has violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct:

- a. RPC 1.3, which states that a lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client;
- b. RPC 1.4(a)(3), which states that a lawyer shall keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter;
- c. RPC 1.5(b), which states that when the lawyer has not regularly represented the client, the basis or rate of the fee shall be communicated to the client, in writing, before or within a reasonable time after commencing the representation;



- d. RPC 1.15(a), which states that a lawyer shall hold property of clients or third persons that is in a lawyer's possession in connection with a client-lawyer representation separate from the lawyer's own property. Such property shall be identified and appropriately safeguarded. Complete records of the receipt, maintenance and disposition of such property shall be preserved for a period of five years after termination of the client-lawyer representation;
- e. RPC 8.4(c), which states that it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation; and
- f. RPC 8.4(d), which states that it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice.

CHARGE II: FILE NO. C1-07-887

22. On or about December 5, 2006, Respondent filed a Chapter 13 Bankruptcy for James Kelly, Bankruptcy Petition No. 06-15729-jkf, which was assigned to the Honorable Jean K. Fitzsimon.

23. At Respondent's request Mr. Kelly paid Respondent \$1,000 in cash.

24. On or about January 18, 2007, William C. Miller, Chapter 13 Trustee, filed a Motion to Dismiss Case for Failure to File Documents.

25. On or about February 15, 2007, a hearing was held on the Motion to Dismiss.

a. An Order was entered Granting Motion to Dismiss Case for Failure to File Documents.

26. On or about February 27, 2007, Respondent filed a Motion to Vacate.

27. On or about March 5, 2007, an Order was entered Granting Motion to Vacate Dismissal Order.

28. On or about March 22, 2007, Mr. Miller again filed a Motion to Dismiss Case for Failure to File Documents.

29. On or about April 19, 2007, a hearing was held on the Motion to Dismiss.

30. Under the Consent Order dated May 11, 2007 and entered by Chief Judge Sigmund, Respondent, *inter alia*, consented to discontinue participation in any further bankruptcy matters until such time as he was rehabilitated.

31. Respondent failed to notify Mr. Kelly of this Order.

32. Respondent failed to notify Judge Fitzsimon of this Order.

33. On or about June 1, 2007, an Order to Appear and Show Cause why the fees paid to John H. Croom should not be disgorged for failing to adequately and properly represent the debtor in this case was filed.

34. On or about June 21, 2007, the Show Cause Hearing was held.

35. On or about July 17, 2007, Respondent's withdrawal of appearance was filed.

36. Following a hearing on July 19, 2007, before the Bankruptcy Court in which Respondent's testimony demonstrated that he suffered from an "impairment so severe that [Respondent] should be suspended from practicing law," it was ordered that as a sanction for his conduct and practice in the Kelly case, the Bankruptcy Court shall make a referral to the Pennsylvania Disciplinary Board to consider suspending Respondent from the practice of law.

37. During the course of his representation of the Kellys, the Kellys could not contact Respondent by telephone.

38. During the term of his representation of the Kellys, Thomas Turner, a suspended attorney, working out of Respondent's office:

- a. told Respondent's clients, the Kellys, that his name was Dan McCluskey;
- b. made contact with the Kellys and with other clients, *i.e.*, answering the phones, taking messages and giving legal advice;
- c. interviewed clients and prospective clients; and
- d. had complete access to bankruptcy software, programs, and a computer program in Respondent's office.

39. Respondent failed to properly supervise Mr. Turner, who Respondent knew was a "formerly admitted attorney" under the Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement because of his status as "suspended."

40. By failing to properly supervise Mr. Turner, Respondent allowed Mr. Turner to engage in the unauthorized practice of law and to violate various provisions of Pa.R.D.E. 217(j).

41. Respondent failed to file with the Disciplinary Board a notice of supervision, as required by Pa.R.D.E. 217(j) (5).

42. Respondent has violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct and Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement:

- a. RPC 1.1, which states that a lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client. Competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness and preparation necessary for the representation;
- b. RPC 1.3, which states that a lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client;
- c. RPC 1.4(a) (3), which states that a lawyer shall keep a client informed about the status of a matter;
- d. RPC 1.4(a) (4), which states that a lawyer shall promptly comply with reasonable requests for information;
- e. RPC 1.4(b), which states that a lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make

informed decisions regarding the representation;

- f. RPC 1.16(a)(1), which states that a lawyer shall not represent a client or, where representation has commenced, shall withdraw from the representation of a client if the representation will result in violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct or other law;
- g. RPC 1.16(a)(2), which states that a lawyer shall not represent a client or, where representation has commenced, shall withdraw from the representation of a client if the lawyer's physical or mental condition materially impairs the lawyer's ability to represent the client;
- h. RPC 5.1(a), which states that a partner in a law firm, and a lawyer who individually or together with other lawyers possesses comparable managerial authority in a law firm, shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that the firm has in effect measures giving reasonable assurance that all lawyers

in the firm conform to the Rules of Professional Conduct;

- i. RPC 5.1(b), which states that a lawyer having direct supervisory authority over another lawyer shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that the other lawyer conforms to the Rules of Professional Conduct;
- j. RPC 5.1(c)(1), which states that a lawyer shall be responsible for another lawyer's violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct if the lawyer orders or, with knowledge of the specific conduct, ratifies the conduct involved;
- k. RPC 5.1(c)(2), which states that a lawyer shall be responsible for another lawyer's violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct if the lawyer is a partner or has comparable managerial authority in the law firm in which the other lawyer practices, or has direct supervisory authority over the other lawyer, and knows of the conduct at a time when its consequences can be avoided or mitigated but fails to take reasonable remedial action;

1. RPC 5.3(a), which states that, with respect to a nonlawyer employed or retained by or associated with a lawyer, a partner and a lawyer who individually or together with other lawyers possesses comparable managerial authority in a law firm shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that the firm has in effect measures giving reasonable assurance that the person's conduct is compatible with the professional obligations of the lawyer;
- m. RPC 5.3(b), which states that, with respect to a nonlawyer employed or retained by or associated with a lawyer, a lawyer having direct supervisory authority over the nonlawyer shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that the person's conduct is compatible with the professional obligations of the lawyer;
- n. RPC 5.3(c)(1), which states that, with respect to a nonlawyer employed or retained by or associated with a lawyer, a lawyer shall be responsible for conduct of such a person that would be a violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct if engaged in



by a lawyer if the lawyer orders or, with the knowledge of the specific conduct, ratifies the conduct involved;

- o. RPC 5.3(c)(2), which states that with respect to a nonlawyer employed or retained by or associated with a lawyer, a lawyer shall be responsible for conduct of such a person that would be a violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct if engaged in by a lawyer if the lawyer is a partner or has comparable managerial authority in the law firm in which the person is employed, or has direct supervisory authority over the person, and in either case knows of the conduct at a time when its consequences can be avoided or mitigated but fails to take reasonable remedial action;
- p. RPC 5.5(a), which states that a lawyer shall not assist another in practicing law in a jurisdiction in violation of the regulation of the legal profession in that jurisdiction;

- q. RPC 8.4(a), which states that it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to violate or attempt to violate the Rules of Professional Conduct, knowingly assist or induce another to do so, or to do so through the acts of another;
- r. RPC 8.4(c), which states that it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation;
- s. RPC 8.4(d), which states that it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice; and
- t. Pa.R.D.E. 203(b)(3), which provides that wilful violation of any other provision of the Enforcement Rules shall be grounds for discipline, via 217(j)(5), which states that a formerly admitted attorney may not engage in any form of law-related activities in this Commonwealth except in accordance with the following requirements: (5) The supervising attorney and the formerly

admitted attorney shall file with the Disciplinary Board a notice of engagement, identifying the supervising attorney and certifying that the formerly admitted attorney's activities will be monitored for compliance with this subdivision (j). The supervising attorney and the formerly admitted attorney shall file a notice with the Disciplinary Board immediately upon the termination of the engagement between the formerly admitted attorney and the supervising attorney.

**CHARGE III: File No. C1-07-904**

43. On or about April 19, 2007, Respondent filed a Chapter 13 Bankruptcy on behalf of Lisa Carpenter in United States Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Bankruptcy Petition No. 07-12292-bif.

44. Respondent gave the court the wrong address for Ms. Carpenter.

45. On or about April 20, 2007, the court entered an Order that unless missing documents were filed, the case would be dismissed without additional notice or hearing.

46. On May 7, 2007, an Order was entered Granting Motion to Extend Time.

47. By Consent Order dated May 11, 2007, Respondent consented to, *inter alia*, refrain from practicing law in Bankruptcy Court.

48. Respondent failed to advise Ms. Carpenter that he could no longer represent her.

49. On or about May 24, 2007, Ms. Carpenter's bankruptcy was dismissed for failure to file missing documents.

50. On or about June 16, 2007, Ms. Carpenter's bankruptcy case was closed.

51. Respondent abandoned Ms. Carpenter during the representation of her.

52. Ms. Carpenter never received any mailings from the court, and she could not reach Respondent because his telephone number was not in service.

53. Respondent has violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct:

- a. RPC 1.1, which states that a lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client. Competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness and preparation necessary for the representation;

- b. RPC 1.3, which states that a lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client;
- c. RPC 1.4(a)(3), which states that a lawyer shall keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter;
- d. RPC 1.4(b), which states that a lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation;
- e. RPC 1.16(d), which states that upon termination of representation, a lawyer shall take steps to the extent reasonably practicable to protect a client's interests, such as giving reasonable notice to the client, allowing time for employment of other counsel, surrendering papers and property to which the client is entitled and refunding any advance payment of fee that has not been earned. The lawyer may retain papers relating to the client to the extent permitted by other law;

- f. RPC 8.4(c), which states that it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation; and
- g. RPC 8.4(d), which states that it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice.

**CHARGE IV: File No. C1-07-1168**

54. On or about April 16, 2007, Lisa Laguins retained Respondent to represent her in a Chapter 13 Bankruptcy.

55. Respondent's fee to represent Ms. Laguins was \$3,000 plus \$274.00 court filing costs.

56. By check dated April 16, 2007, made payable to the Order of John H. Croom, Ms. Laguins paid Respondent a \$2,500, non-refundable retainer.

57. On or about April 19, 2007, Respondent filed a Chapter 13 Bankruptcy Petition at 07-12290-bif.

58. On or about April 25, 2007, Respondent filed a Motion to Impose Automatic Stay and a Motion to Expedite Hearing.

59. By Order dated April 26, 2007, the Motion to Expedite the Hearing was granted, with the hearing scheduled for April 27, 2007 at 4:55 p.m.

60. On April 27, 2007, without the consent of Ms. Laguins, Respondent filed a praecipe to withdraw the motion for automatic stay and filed a Praecipe to convert from a Chapter 13 proceeding to a Chapter 7 Bankruptcy.

61. On or about May 4, 2007, Respondent filed a Motion to Extend Time to File All Required Documents, which was granted May 8, 2007.

62. Respondent failed to pay the conversion fee of \$25.

63. By Consent Order dated May 11, 2007, Respondent consented to, *inter alia*, refrain from practicing law in Bankruptcy Court.

64. Respondent failed to comply with this Order when he did not notify Ms. Laguins of his inability to further represent her.

65. By Order dated June 18, 2007, Bruce Fox, United States Bankruptcy Judge, ordered Ms. Laguins' bankruptcy dismissed due to failure to file timely all required documents and to pay a conversion fee.

66. Ms. Laguins retained new counsel, James D. Moran, Esquire, to represent her for a refund of fees.

67. On or about July 5, 2007, Mr. Moran filed a Debtor's Motion for Refund of Attorney's Fees.

68. On or about August 15, 2007, a hearing was held in front of Judge Fox at which time he entered an Order directing Respondent to disgorge \$1,500 of the retainer within fourteen days of the date of the Order.

69. Respondent did not appear or contest the motion.

70. Respondent failed to disgorge the money to Ms. Laguins.

71. Respondent has violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct:

- a. RPC 1.2(a), which states that subject to paragraphs (c) and (d), a lawyer shall abide by a client's decisions concerning the objectives of representation and, as required by Rule 1.4, shall consult with the client as to the means by which they are to be pursued. A lawyer may take such action on behalf of the client as is impliedly authorized to carry out the representation;
- b. RPC 1.3, which states that a lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client;
- c. RPC 1.4(a)(2), which states that a lawyer shall reasonably consult with the client



about the means by which the client's objectives are to be accomplished;

- d. RPC 1.4(a)(3), which states that a lawyer shall keep a client informed about the status of a matter;
- e. RPC 1.4(b), which states that a lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation;
- f. RPC 1.15(a), which states a lawyer shall hold property of clients or third persons that is in a lawyer's possession in connection with a client-lawyer relationship separate from the lawyer's own property. Such property shall be identified and appropriately safeguarded. Complete records of the receipt, maintenance and disposition of such property shall be preserved for a period of five years after termination of the client-lawyer relationship or after distribution or disposition of the property, whichever is later;

- g. RPC 8.4(c), which states that it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation; and
- h. RPC 8.4(d), which states that it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice.

### III. JOINT RECOMMENDATION FOR DISCIPLINE

72. Petitioner and Respondent jointly recommend that the appropriate discipline for Respondent's admitted misconduct is a one-year-and-one-day suspension from the practice of law.

73. Respondent hereby consents to that discipline being imposed upon him by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Attached to this Petition is Respondent's executed Affidavit required by Pa.R.D.E. 215(d), stating that he consents to the recommended discipline and including the mandatory acknowledgements contained in Pa.R.D.E. 215(d)(1) through (4).

74. Petitioner and Respondent respectfully submit that there are several mitigating circumstances:

- a. Respondent has admitted engaging in misconduct and violating the charged

Pennsylvania Rules of Professional Conduct and Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement;

- b. Respondent has cooperated with Petitioner, as is evidenced by Respondent's admissions herein and his consent to receiving the jointly recommended discipline; and
- c. Respondent has no record of discipline.

75. Respondent represented in a telephone conversation with Disciplinary Counsel that he has been suffering from an alcohol dependency and he was depressed due to a health problem.

76. A suspension of one year and one day is within the range of discipline imposed in similar Pennsylvania cases involving attorneys who have engaged in a pattern of neglect. See, e.g., *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Sieger*, 60 Pa. D.&C.4<sup>th</sup> 522 (2001) (an attorney was suspended for one year and one day for neglect and delay of three client matters, which resulted in the dismissal of one client's lawsuit, the grant of a summary judgment in another client's case, and the *non pros* of a third client's case); *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Eric M.D. Levande*,

72 DB 1999, D.Bd. Rpt. 2/2/01 (S.Ct. Order 4/2/01) (one-year-and-one-day suspension of attorney who engaged in neglect and incompetence in eight bankruptcy cases).

77. The failure to properly supervise a suspended attorney is misconduct that could warrant not less than a term of suspension. See *cf.*, e.g., *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Frank C. Arcuri*, 140 DB 2005 (S.Ct. Order 4/7/06) (a respondent who suffered from severe depression engaged in multiple instances of neglect plus failure to supervise a paralegal who made misrepresentations to a client) (one year suspension on consent); *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Ball*, 67 Ohio St.3<sup>rd</sup> 401, 618 N.E.2d 159 (1993) (attorney's neglect in failing to supervise secretary who misappropriated client funds over ten year period) (six month suspension); and *Mahoning Cty. Bar Assn. v. Lavelle*, 107 Ohio St.3<sup>rd</sup> 92, 836 N.E.2d 1214 (2005) (one instance of neglect and failure to supervise nonlawyers in the respondent's law office, which inattention allowed nonlawyers to falsify documents) (18 month suspension, with 12 months stayed, on the condition that a monitor be appointed). Discipline in these cases is consistent with the jointly recommended discipline of a one-year-and-one-day suspension.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner and Respondent respectfully request that:

- a. Pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 215(e) and 215(g), the three-member panel of the Disciplinary Board review and approve the Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent and file its recommendation with the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in which it is recommended that the Supreme Court enter an Order:
  - i. suspending Respondent from the practice of law for a period of one year and one day; and
  - ii. directing Respondent to comply with all provisions of Pa.R.D.E. 217.
- b. Pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 215(i), the three-member panel of the Disciplinary Board order Respondent to pay the necessary expenses incurred in the investigation and prosecution of this matter as a

condition to the grant of the Petition and that all expenses be paid by Respondent before the imposition of discipline under Pa.R.D.E. 215(g).


Respectfully and jointly submitted,

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

PAUL J. KILLION  
CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

3/3/08  
Date

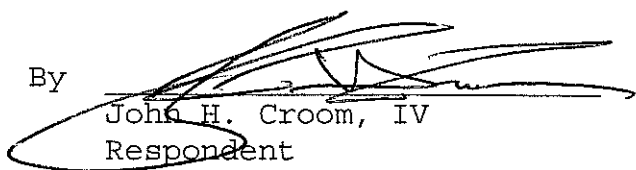
By

  
Donna M. Snyder  
Disciplinary Counsel

and

2/27/08  
Date

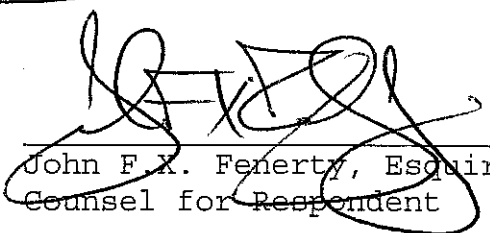
By

  
John H. Croom, IV  
Respondent

and

2/29/08  
Date

By

  
John F.X. Fenerty, Esquire  
Counsel for Respondent

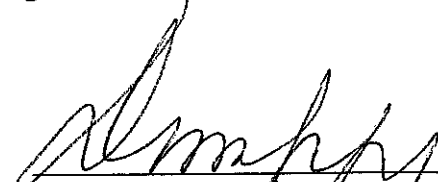
BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE  
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Petitioner :  
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v. : ODC File Nos. C1-07-637 .  
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Atty. Reg. No. 68473  
JOHN H. CROOM, IV, :  
Respondent : (Philadelphia)

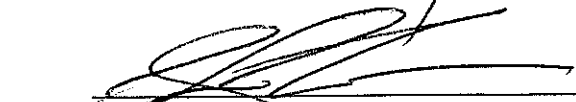
VERIFICATION

The statements contained in the foregoing Joint Petition  
In Support Of Discipline On Consent Under Pa.R.D.E. 215(d),  
are true and correct to the best of our knowledge or  
information and belief and are made subject to the penalties  
of 18 Pa.C.S. §4904, relating to unsworn falsification to  
authorities.

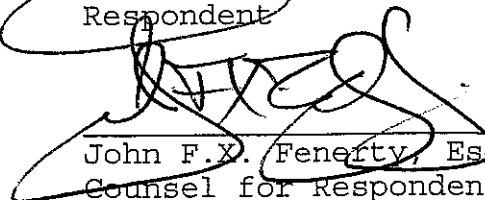
3/3/08  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Donna M. Snyder  
Disciplinary Counsel

2/27/08  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John H. Croom, IV  
Respondent

2/29/08  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John F.X. Fenerty, Esquire  
Counsel for Respondent

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, :  
Petitioner :  
:  
v. : ODC File Nos. C1-07-637  
: C1-07-887, and C1-07-904  
:  
JOHN H. CROOM, IV, : Atty. Reg. No. 68473  
Respondent : (Philadelphia)

AFFIDAVIT UNDER RULE 215(d), Pa.R.D.E.

Respondent, John H. Croom, IV, hereby states that he consents to the imposition of a suspension from the practice of law for a period of one year and one day, as jointly recommended by Petitioner, Office of Disciplinary Counsel, and Respondent in the Joint Petition In Support Of Discipline On Consent and further states that:

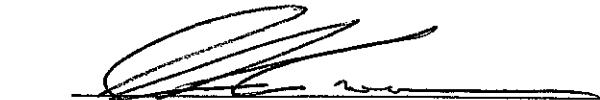
1. His consent is freely and voluntarily rendered; he is not being subjected to coercion or duress; he is fully aware of the implications of submitting the consent; and he has consulted with counsel in connection with the decision to consent to discipline;

2. He is aware that there is presently pending an investigation into allegations that he has been guilty of misconduct as set forth in the Joint Petition;

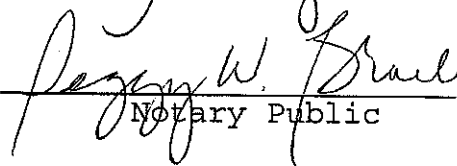
3. He acknowledges that the material facts set forth in the Joint Petition are true; and



4. He consents because he knows that if charges predicated upon the matter under investigation were filed, he could not successfully defend against them.

  
John A. Croom, IV  
Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed  
before me this 28<sup>th</sup>  
day of February, 2007.

  
Notary Public

