

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

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, Petitioner	:	No. 57 DB 2020
	:	
v.	:	File No. C1-19-686
	:	
QAWI ABDUL-RAHMAN	:	Attorney Registration No. 90454
	:	
Respondent	:	(Philadelphia)

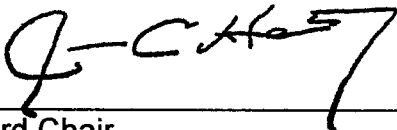
ORDER

AND NOW, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2020, in accordance with Rule 208(a)(5), Pa.R.D.E., the determination by a Review Panel of the Disciplinary Board of the above captioned matter is accepted; and it is

ORDERED that the said QAWI ABDUL-RAHMAN of Philadelphia be subjected to a **PUBLIC REPRIMAND** by the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania as provided in Rule 204(a) and Rule 205(c)(8) of the Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement.


Costs shall be paid by the Respondent.

BY THE BOARD:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair

TRUE COPY FROM RECORD

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marcee D. Sloan, Board Prothonotary  
The Disciplinary Board of the  
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

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

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL	:	No. 57 DB 2020
Petitioner	:	
	:	
	:	File No. C2-19-686
v.	:	
	:	Attorney Registration No. 90454
QAWI ABDUL-RAHMAN	:	
Respondent	:	(Philadelphia)

**PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

By Order dated April 23, 2020, the Board directed that Qawi Abdul-Rahman receive a public reprimand.

Respondent's conduct concerns his representation of Vernon Maulsby in a civil action during an eighteen-month time period in 2018-2019. Mr. Maulsby signed a retainer agreement in 2018, but notably, Respondent failed to advise his client in writing that he did not maintain professional insurance. Throughout the representation, Respondent failed to communicate with his client and failed to promptly respond to his client's requests for status updates. When Respondent did communicate with Mr. Maulsby, he misrepresented on at least two occasions that he would file a civil complaint on Mr. Maulsby's behalf, but failed to do so. The record indicates that Respondent failed to perform any significant work on his client's behalf.

In October 2019, Respondent notified his client by letter that Respondent was terminating the representation because Mr. Maulsby "breached" the terms of the retainer agreement. In another letter to his client in October 2019, Respondent informed Mr. Maulsby that the statute of limitations would expire, but failed to advise his client of the exact date of the statute of limitations.

Respondent has a record of discipline. In February 2019, he received an Informal Admonition for his misconduct in one client matter. Therein, Respondent failed to respond to his client's telephone and text messages, failed to advise his client of court hearings, failed to provide a written fee agreement, and failed to deposit his fee into his IOLTA account until it was earned. Despite receiving this Informal Admonition during the same time frame that Respondent was receiving communications from Office of Disciplinary Counsel about the instant matter, Respondent continued to ignore Mr. Maulsby's attempts to obtain a status on his matter.

By his conduct, Respondent violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct ("RPC"):

1. RPC 1.1 – A lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client. Competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation;
2. RPC 1.3 – A lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client;
3. RPC 1.4(a)(3) – A lawyer shall keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the matter;
4. RPC 1.4(a)(4) – A lawyer shall promptly comply with reasonable requests for information;
5. RPC 1.4(b) – A lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation;
6. RPC 1.4(c) – A lawyer in private practice shall inform a new client in writing if the lawyer does not have professional liability insurance of at least

\$100,000 per occurrence and \$300,000 in the aggregate per year, subject to commercially reasonable deductibles, retention or co-insurance, and shall inform existing clients in writing at any time the lawyer's professional liability insurance drops below either of those amounts or the lawyer's professional liability insurance is terminated;

7. RPC 1.16(d) – 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 or expense that has not been earned or incurred. The lawyer may retain papers relating to the client to the extent permitted by other law; and
8. RPC 8.4(c) – It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

Respondent's conduct in this matter is public. This Public Reprimand is a matter of public record and shall be posted on the Disciplinary Board's website at [www.padisciplinaryboard.org](http://www.padisciplinaryboard.org)

  
Board Chair