

In the Indiana Supreme Court



In the Matter of: John S. Keeler,
Respondent

Supreme Court Case No.
22S-DI-146

Published Order Approving Statement of Circumstances and Conditional Agreement for Discipline

Pursuant to Indiana Admission and Discipline Rule 23(12.1)(b), the Indiana Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission and Respondent have submitted for approval a “Statement of Circumstances and Conditional Agreement for Discipline” stipulating agreed facts and proposed discipline as summarized below.

Stipulated Facts: On April 18, 2022, in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, Respondent pleaded guilty to one count of Causing the Filing of a False Tax Return in violation of 26 U.S.C. § 7206(2). The district court accepted Respondent’s plea and sentenced him to two months of minimum-security incarceration, one year of supervised release, and just over \$69,000 in fines, restitution, and fees.

Respondent has been under an order of interim suspension in this matter since June 9, 2022.

Violation: The parties agree that Respondent violated these Indiana Professional Conduct Rules prohibiting the following misconduct:

8.4(b): Committing a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer’s honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer.

8.4(c): Engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

Discipline: The Court, having considered the submissions of the parties, now approves the following agreed discipline.

For Respondent’s professional misconduct, the Court **suspends Respondent from the practice of law for a period of not less than 545 days, without automatic reinstatement, effective immediately.** At the conclusion of the minimum period of suspension, Respondent may petition this Court for reinstatement to the practice of law in this state, provided Respondent pays the costs of this proceeding, fulfills the duties of a suspended attorney, and satisfies the requirements for reinstatement of Admission and Discipline Rule 23(18). Reinstatement is discretionary and requires clear and convincing evidence of the attorney’s remorse, rehabilitation, and fitness to practice law. *See* Admis. Disc. R. 23(18)(b).

The costs of this proceeding are assessed against Respondent. Pursuant to the parties’ stipulation, the Court hereby orders Respondent to pay \$274.25 by check made payable and

transmitted to the Clerk of the Indiana Supreme Court. Upon receipt, the Clerk is directed to disburse those funds as follows: (1) \$24.25, payable to the Commission as reimbursement for investigative expenses incurred; and (2) \$250.00, payable to the Clerk for court costs. The expenses of the hearing officer will be submitted separately.

With the acceptance of this agreement, the hearing officer appointed in this case is discharged with the Court's appreciation.

Done at Indianapolis, Indiana, on 11/4/2022.



Loretta H. Rush
Chief Justice of Indiana

All Justices concur.