

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SUPREME COURT

ORDER

LD-2009-0011, In the Matter of Charles L. Lonardo

On December 8, 2009, the Attorney Discipline Office filed a certified copy of the October 16, 2009 order of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County, disbaring Attorney Charles L. Lonardo. The discipline was based upon Attorney Lonardo's conviction of conspiracy to commit automotive fraud by a superior court jury in Massachusetts.

In accordance with Supreme Court Rule 37(12)(b), this court ordered that a copy of the Massachusetts disciplinary order be served on Attorney Lonardo. It further ordered that Attorney Lonardo and the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) inform the court if either contended that the imposition of identical or substantially similar discipline would be unwarranted. The PCC notified the court that it did not intend to file a response to the court's order. Attorney Lonardo filed no response.

Rule 37(12)(d) provides for the imposition of reciprocal discipline by the court unless the respondent attorney or the PCC demonstrates, or the court finds, based on the face of the record from which the discipline is predicated, that: (1) the procedure followed by the jurisdiction imposing discipline was so lacking in notice or opportunity to be heard as to constitute a deprivation of due process; (2) the imposition of the same or substantially similar discipline by the court would result in grave injustice; or (3) the misconduct established warrants substantially different discipline in New Hampshire.

Having reviewed the order of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County, the court does not find that any of these conditions have been met. It appears from the material filed that Attorney Lonardo had an opportunity to be heard in the Massachusetts disciplinary proceedings. In light of the seriousness of Attorney Lonardo's misconduct, the court does not find that disbarment would result in grave injustice or that his misconduct would warrant substantially different discipline in New Hampshire.

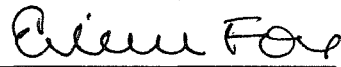
Therefore, the court orders that Charles L. Lonardo be disbarred from the practice of law in New Hampshire. Attorney Lonardo is hereby assessed all expenses incurred by the Professional Conduct Committee in the investigation and prosecution of this matter. See Rule 37(19).

On or before March 22, 2010, the Attorney Discipline Office shall advise the court whether the appointment of an attorney is necessary to take possession of any client files or trust accounts.

Broderick, C.J., and Dalianis, Duggan, Hicks and Conboy, JJ., concurred.

DATE: February 18, 2010

ATTEST:



Eileen Fox, Clerk

Distribution:

Charles L. Lonardo
James L. DeHart, Esquire
Sherri Kluesener, Supreme Court
NH Bar Association x4
Professional Conduct Committee
File