

IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
BEFORE THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE
1501 W. WASHINGTON, SUITE 102, PHOENIX, AZ 85007-3231

**IN THE MATTER OF A
DISBARRED MEMBER OF
THE STATE BAR OF ARIZONA,**

**STEPHEN J. RENARD,
Bar No. 021991**

Respondent.

PDJ 2014-9052

FINAL JUDGMENT AND ORDER

[State Bar No. 13-2118]

FILED OCTOBER 7, 2014

The Presiding Disciplinary Judge of the Supreme Court of Arizona, having reviewed the Agreement for Discipline by Consent filed on September October 6, 2014 pursuant to Rule 57(a), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., hereby accepts the parties' proposed agreement. Accordingly:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Respondent, **Stephen J. Renard**, is hereby ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$3,153.70 to Jeff Linssen for his conduct in violation of the Arizona Rules of Professional Conduct, as outlined in the consent documents, within sixty (60) days of entry of this final judgment and order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent pay the costs and expenses of the State Bar of Arizona in the amount of \$1,202.25, within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this Order. There are no costs or expenses incurred by the

disciplinary clerk and/or Presiding Disciplinary Judge's Office in connection with these disciplinary proceedings.

DATED this 7th day of October, 2014

William J. O'Neil

William J. O'Neil, Presiding Disciplinary Judge

Copies of the foregoing mailed/emailed
this 7th day of October, 2014.

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Respondent

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by: JAlbright

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IN THE MATTER OF A DISBARRED MEMBER
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PDJ-2014-9052

**REPORT ACCEPTING CONSENT
FOR DISCIPLINE**

[State Bar No. 13-2118]

FILED OCTOBER 7 , 2014

An Agreement for Discipline by Consent was filed on October 6, 2014, under Rule 57(a)(3), of the Rules of the Arizona Supreme Court. The complaint was filed on June 19, 2014. Upon filing such Agreement, the presiding disciplinary judge, "shall accept, reject or recommend modification of the agreement as appropriate".

Mr. Renard was retained by his clients, Jeff and Elizabeth Linssen, to proceed civilly against certain individuals in March 2009, was paid over \$2,000 for that purpose and filed a complaint in Superior Court against those individuals. After filing this complaint, Mr. Renard took no further action and the complaint was dismissed for lack of service.

Mr. Renard did not tell his clients the action was dismissed. Instead in December, 2009 he misled his client into believing default would soon be entered against in their favor. He thereafter filed a second complaint against the defendants in Superior Court. Despite assurances to his clients, he did nothing regarding that second complaint and it was dismissed for lack of prosecution on June 6, 2012.

His clients retained him to file a separate complaint against a contractor in an unrelated matter. Mr. Renard was paid \$1,000 by his clients for this purpose. He never filed a complaint in that matter. Mr. Renard informed his clients he was continuing to work on the complaint. When his clients wrote him in April, 2011, they informed him they wanted him to move forward with the matter, which he agreed to do. He never did.

On March 10, 2010, Mr. Renard was suspended from practicing law. He informed his clients of his suspension March 13, 2010 and named another lawyer to assist them while suspended. However, Mr. Renard later told his clients to communicate only when him, not that attorney. He misled that attorney multiple times. On February 2, 2011, Mr. Renard was disbarred. When his clients discovered the first action was dismissed and the other one not filed, he permitted his clients to assume it was the other attorney's fault.

Mr. Renard drafted a motion to reopen the first case for his clients. Mr. Renard continued to mislead his clients. The court denied the motion as there were no efforts to prosecute the case for three years.

In addition, when the matter was brought to the State Bar, Mr. Renard failed to respond on multiple occasions. On May 15, 2014, the Attorney Discipline Probable Cause Committee issued an Order of Restitution for the failure of Mr. Renard to take any action for his clients, practicing law while suspended, failing to respond to the two bar charges and his misrepresentations regarding the other attorney. Mr. Renard filed a Notice of Appeal. On June 4, 2014, the Order of Restitution was vacated as a result.

The misconduct of Mr. Renard is significant. It is aggravated by his prior disciplinary offenses. On June 1, 2009, he was censured and placed on probation. On November 11, 2009, he was informally reprimanded twice. On March 5, 2010, he was suspended for six months. On May 24, 2010, he was suspended for a period of 18 months. On February 2, 2011, Mr. Renard was disbarred. The parties agree disbarment is appropriate for these actions, however, Mr. Renard is already disbarred. These actions may be considered in any future sanction and in any attempt by Mr. Renard to be reinstated to the practice of law.

IT IS ORDERED incorporating by this reference the Agreement for Discipline by Consent and any supporting documents by this reference. The agreed upon sanction is the payment of restitution in the amount of \$3,153.70 to Jeff Linsen within sixty days of the final judgment and costs and expenses of the State Bar in the amount of \$1,202.25 within thirty (30) days from this date.

IT IS ORDERED the Agreement for Discipline by Consent discipline is accepted. A Final Judgment and Order was submitted simultaneously with the Agreement. Costs as submitted are approved in the amount of \$1,202.25. The proposed final judgment and order having been reviewed are approved as to form. The final judgment and order is signed this date.

DATED this 7th day of October, 2014.

William J. O'Neil

William J. O'Neil, Presiding Disciplinary Judge

COPY of the foregoing e-mailed/mailed
this 7th day of October, 2014, to:

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