

**BEFORE THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY  
JUDGE**

---

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

**STEVEN R. RENSCH,**  
**Bar No. 009914**

Respondent.

**PDJ-2015-9081**

**FINAL JUDGMENT AND ORDER**

[State Bar No. 15-0544]

**FILED SEPTEMBER 4, 2015**

The Presiding Disciplinary Judge of the Supreme Court of Arizona, having reviewed the Agreement for Discipline by Consent filed on August 24, 2015, pursuant to Rule 57(a), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., hereby accepts the parties' proposed agreement. Accordingly:

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** Respondent, **Steven R. Rensch**, is hereby reprimanded for his conduct in violation of the Arizona Rules of Professional Conduct, as outlined in the consent documents, effective thirty (30) days from the date of this Order.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** Mr. Rensch shall be placed on probation for a period of eighteen (18) months with the State Bar's Law Office Management Assistance Program ("LOMAP") for the monitoring of his compliance with trust account rules and procedures.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** Mr. Rensch shall pay the costs and expenses of the State Bar of Arizona in the amount of \$ 1,200.00, 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 4th day of September, 2015.

*William J. O'Neil*

---

**William J. O'Neil, Presiding Disciplinary Judge**

Copies of the foregoing mailed/emailed  
this 4th day of September, 2015, to:

Steven R. Rensch  
Law Office of Steven Rensch  
3121 E. Fargo Cir.  
Mesa, AZ 85213-5416  
Email: srensch@renschlawoffice.com  
Respondent

David L. Sandweiss  
Senior Bar Counsel  
State Bar of Arizona  
4201 N 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266  
Email: LRO@staff.azbar.org

Lawyer Regulation Records Manager  
State Bar of Arizona  
4201 N 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266  
Email: LRO@staff.azbar.org

by: JAlbright

**BEFORE THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY  
JUDGE**

---

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

**STEVEN R. RENSCH,**  
**Bar No. 009914**

Respondent.

**No. PDJ-2015-9081**

**DECISION ACCEPTING  
AGREEMENT FOR DISCIPLINE  
BY CONSENT**

[State Bar File No. 15-0544]

**FILED SEPTEMBER 4, 2015**

An Agreement for Discipline by Consent ("Agreement") was filed on August 24, 2015, and submitted under Rule 57(a)(3), of the Rules of the Arizona Supreme Court. A Probable Cause Order was filed on July 27, 2015 and the Agreement was reached before the authorization to file a formal complaint. Upon filing such Agreement, the presiding disciplinary judge, "shall accept, reject or recommend modification of the agreement as appropriate."

Rule 57(a)(2) requires admissions be tendered solely "...in exchange for the stated form of discipline..." Under that rule, the right to an adjudicatory hearing is waived only if the "...conditional admission and proposed form of discipline is approved..." If the agreement is not accepted those conditional admissions are automatically withdrawn and shall not be used against the parties in any subsequent proceeding.

Because the State Bar is the complainant in this matter notification under Rule 53(b)(3), is unnecessary.

Mr. Rensch conditionally admits violations of ERs 1.15(a) (safekeeping of client property) and Rules 43(a) (trust account duty to deposits) and (b) (trust account requirements). The parties stipulate to a sanction of reprimand and up to 18 months of probation (LOMAP). Mr. Rensch deposited a cashier's check for \$10,497 "relating to client D.W." Apparently through no fault of Mr. Rensch the check did not clear despite bankers informing him the funds were available.

Because of the insufficient funds notification, the State Bar Trust Account Examiner sent Mr. Rensch a copy of the overdraft notification. The examiner requested an explanation and copies of the related mandatory records covering that February's bank statement period. Mr. Rensch provided some of the requested information. Mr. Rensch has two prior trust account related diversions. Rather than deliver the requested individual client ledgers and administrative funds/bank charges ledger, he submitted client statements. He also declined to furnish copies of cancelled checks and duplicate deposit records, stating he intentionally discards them.

It was determined the check was from a client, all of which was earned fees. Mr. Rensch is admittedly "in the habit of putting everything through my IOLTA account first." Notwithstanding that statement, when asked why and for how long he had been depositing earned funds into his IOLTA account, Mr. Rensch was untruthful in stating that was the only time he had done so. The February bank statement period proved he had deposited fully earned funds twice more in that same period.

The Agreement points out Mr. Rensch "knows the trust account rules but resists anyone telling him he must comply even with the seemingly tedious, or to him unnecessary, bookkeeping requirements." His response to the State Bar declared

the State Bar's mandated inquiry as "officious overreaching" and "irritating" and "insulting." Mr. Rensch has attended TAEPP and obtained personalized Trust Account Program tutoring. The agreement outlines an intentional disregard of the rules.

The parties list *Standards* 4.12, 4.13 and 4.14 of the American Bar Association's *Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions (Standards)* as meriting consideration. Based on these conditional admissions, Mr. Rensch's misconduct was knowing, if not intentional. Under *Standard* 4.12, suspension is the presumptive sanction. However, the parties agree reprimand is the appropriate sanction for Mr. Rensch's misconduct.

As stated in the Agreement, Mr. Rensch did not produce copies of all requested trust account documentation. There is no indication this was through a misunderstanding or mistake by Mr. Rensch, but rather by intent. The parties agree his misconduct caused potential injury to clients and actual injury and actual injury to the legal profession. The parties agree there is a pattern of misconduct, multiple offenses, and substantial experience in the law coupled with a refusal to acknowledge the wrongful nature of his conduct and apparently an equal refusal to adhere to the Supreme Court.

Based on the multiple rehabilitative efforts to bring Mr. Rensch into compliance with trust rules and procedures since 2005, the PDJ is concerned a reprimand and probation will not fulfill the objectives of discipline and is not appropriate based on these conditional admissions. However, the stipulated term of 18 months of probation with the State Bar's Law Office Management Assistance Program ("LOMAP") to monitor his compliance with trust account rules and procedures will offer him an opportunity to either succeed or fail over a sufficient mandated period and offers

adequate supervision for the protection of the legal profession and public. Considering the conditional admissions, any material violation shall be reported to the PDJ under Supreme Court Rule 60.

Now Therefore,

**IT IS ORDERED** incorporating the Agreement and any supporting documents by this reference. The agreed upon sanctions are: reprimand, eighteen months of mandatory probation with the State Bar's LOMAP to monitor his compliance with trust account rules and procedures and costs and expenses of the disciplinary proceedings for \$1,200.00. These financial obligations shall bear interest at the statutory rate.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** the Agreement is accepted. Costs as submitted are approved for \$1,200.00, and shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the final order. Now therefore, a final judgment and order is signed this date.

**DATED** 4th day of September, 2015.

*William J. O'Neil*

---

**William J. O'Neil, Presiding Disciplinary Judge**

Copies of the foregoing mailed/emailed  
this 4th day of September, 2015.

David L. Sandweiss  
Senior Bar Counsel  
State Bar of Arizona  
4201 N. 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Phoenix, AZ 85016-6266  
Email: lro@staff.azbar.org

Steven R. Rensch  
Law Office of Steven Rensch  
3121 E. Fargo Circle  
Mesa, AZ 85213-5416  
Email: srench@renschlawoffice.com  
Respondent

Lawyer Regulation Records Manager  
State Bar of Arizona  
4201 N. 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Phoenix, AZ 85016-6266  
Email: lro@staff.azbar.org

by: JAlbright