Kelly J. Flood, Bar No. 019772 Staff Bar Counsel State Bar of Arizona 4201 N. 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100 Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266 Telephone (602)340-7371 Email: LRO@staff.azbar.org

Terrence P. Woods, Bar No. 003490 Broening Oberg Woods & Wilson PC 2800 N CENTRAL AVE STE 1600 PHOENIX, AZ 85004-1047 Telephone 602-271-7705 Email: tpw@bowwlaw.com Respondent's Counsel

#### BEFORE THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE

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

LAURENCE M. BERLIN, Bar No. 006558,

Respondent.

PDJ 2021-9067

State Bar File Nos. 21-0786 and 21-1698

AGREEMENT FOR DISCIPLINE BY CONSENT

The State Bar of Arizona, and Respondent Laurence M. Berlin who is represented in this matter by counsel, Terrence P. Woods, hereby submit their Agreement for Discipline by Consent pursuant to Rule 57(a), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct. A probable cause order was entered on July 13, 2021. A formal complaint was filed

August 9, 2021 in State Bar File No. 21-0786. Additionally, a screening investigation was opened in State Bar File No. 21-1698, and the parties have agreed to resolve it as part of this consent agreement. Respondent voluntarily waives the right to an adjudicatory hearing, unless otherwise ordered, and waives all motions, defenses, objections or requests which have been made or raised, or could be asserted thereafter, if the conditional admission and proposed form of discipline is approved.

The State Bar is the complainant in this matter, therefore no notice of this agreement is required pursuant to Rule 53(b)(3), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct.

Respondent conditionally admits that his conduct, as set forth below, violated Rule 42, ER 3.4(c), 5.5, 8.4(d), Rule 33(c), and Rule 54(c). Upon acceptance of this agreement, Respondent agrees to accept imposition of the following discipline: six (6) months and one (1) day Suspension, effective immediately upon acceptance of the agreement. Respondent also agrees to pay the costs and expenses of the disciplinary proceeding, within 30 days from the date of this order. If costs are not paid within the 30 days interest will begin to accrue at the legal rate. The State Bar's Statement of Costs and Expenses is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Respondent understands that the costs and expenses of the disciplinary proceeding include the costs and expenses of the State Bar of Arizona, the Disciplinary Clerk,

## **FACTS**

## **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

Respondent was licensed to practice law in Arizona on October 4,
 1980.

## COUNT ONE (File no. 21-0786/ State Bar of Arizona)

- 2. Respondent was suspended for six months effective August 20, 2020 pursuant to a consent agreement in PDJ 2020-9017/State Bar File No. 18-2009. He has not attempted to reinstate.
- 3. On December 11, 2020, an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) in the Office of Administrative Hearings issued a minute entry regarding Respondent's former clients' (the Blacks) failure to comply with an earlier order requiring them to notify the ALJ of the disposition of a concurrently filed superior court case.
- 4. On December 28, 2020, Respondent filed what he titled "Appellants' Motion to Continue and to Withdraw Temporarily." After explaining the status of the case, Respondent wrote:

the Probable Cause Committee, the Presiding Disciplinary Judge and the Supreme Court of Arizona.

Please note that Mr. Berlin, who has represented the Blacks as their attorney in these related matters, is currently under a brief suspension from the State Bar of Arizona and therefore had to withdraw from the appeal, albeit temporarily, and will reenter appearance in these matters as soon as the suspension is lifted; and the Court of Appeals has scheduled accordingly.

Unfortunately, due to the brief suspension it is also necessary for me (Berlin) to withdraw from this administrative appeal briefly and to reenter it, as with Div. I, as soon as the suspension is lifted. Therefore, please also accept this as my motion to withdraw, temporarily, from the administrative proceeding.

Undersigned should also be permitted to withdraw temporarily, to reenter his appearance prior to the Stants procedure this coming spring.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 28th day of December 2020.

/s/Laurence 3	I. Berlin
Laurence M.	Berlin

- 5. Respondent's motion was granted, including his request to withdraw.
- 6. On February 11, 2021, Respondent filed a "Motion for Urgent Relief" with the Court of Appeals on behalf of the Blacks. The motion was captioned as if it was being filed by the clients pro per, but Respondent used his e-filing credentials to assist the clients in filing the motion. Additionally, Respondent wrote:

Undersigned attempted timely filing on the evening of February 10, 2021 (Form Set 5411129) but the system would not permit me to choose and upload the document (or any other document). I phoned the clerk of the court this morning (2/11/21) and, at the suggestion of the deputy clerk, have also had discussions today with persons at the TurboCourt "help line" (602-452-3519) provided by the deputy clerk. (Reference # 394265) Based on those conversations and further attempts at electronic filing, I understand that the problem is likely to be with the browser my computer uses and that downloading a different browser may be necessary to resolve the problem. (This is surprising in light of the fact that my computer has had no problem filing through this browser on prior occasions.) I was further given to understand that if I am unable to file the Reply Brief electronically, that hard

#### Conclusion -

Having attempted timely filing through the courts' electronic system, Appellants need a brief extension either to correct the electronic problem(s) or to arrange for the mailing or, delivery of hard copies.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 11th day of February, 2021.

/s/LM Berlin

-- For Mr. and Mrs. Black

This motion is being filed on behalf of Plaintiffs / Appellants Shannon and Kevin Black by Laurence Bertin. I represented Appellants through filing of their Opening Brief; am presently under a brief suspension by the State Bar of Arizona; and anticipate appearing on the Blacks' behalf again very soon, when the brief suspension is lifted. (The Court granted my withdrawal during the period of suspension.) Meanwhile, Shannon and Kevin Black signed their Reply Brief and I was to file it electronically for them due to ou (unrealized) expectation that it would be the most efficient way to get their Reply Brief filed.

I asked if it would be appropriate to email the Reply Brief to the clerk of the court for filing but was informed that would be inappropriate for the clerk's office.

7. Respondent filed his former clients' Reply Brief the same date, and the signature lines appeared as follows:

		Stannon and Kevin Black ing Party
	101 151 151	Shannon Black Kevin Black Laurerke M. Berlin (assisting with brief)
Sign	iture of	Counsel or Party
	Febru	sary 10, 2021
Date	***************************************	>>\

8. Respondent also included the following footnote in the Reply Brief:

9. The Reply Brief was signed as follows:

With apologies to this Honorable Court, Plaintiffs / Appellants Shannon and Kevin Black and Laurence Berlin (assisting them with preparation of this brief) express their strong feelings of outrage in response to our State's argument that it has no duty of care to a parent from whom it takes a child. As a matter of principle, our state should embrace its role in protecting the parent's fundamental liberty interest, not deny that it has any such role. The Blacks and Mr. Berlin will refrain from further use of adjectives like "outrageous" to express their personal opinions in this matter, but feel it appropriate (if not important) to remind this Honorable Court that our State's position is contrary to the fundamental liberty interests of all of Arizona's parents.

DATED this 10th day of February 2021.

Sharafion Black, Appellant

Kevin Black, Appellant

/ s | Laurence M. Berlin

Laurence M. Berlin, assisting Appellants by preparation of the foregoing Reply

- 10. Respondent also signed the Certificate of Service.
- 11. The Court of Appeals accepted the Reply Brief, but commented on the motion:

The court has received the motion for urgent relief. Because the motion was filed by an attorney who does not represent appellants and is currently suspended from the practice of law, the court will not consider the motion. Therefore,

IT IS ORDERED taking no action on the motion.

However, the court has reviewed the filings in this appeal. The reply brief was due on February 10, 2021, and was filed on February 12, 2021. On the court's own motion,

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED accepting the reply brief filed on February 12, 2021.

12. File 21-1698 arises from the fact that on July 15, 2021, two days after the Attorney Discipline Probable Cause Committee issued an Order of Probable Cause in State Bar File No. 21-0786, and one day after the Order was forwarded to Respondent's counsel by Bar Counsel, Respondent filed a Petition for Review with the Arizona Supreme Court. He signed the brief as follows:

Appellants Shannon and Kevin Black
Name of Filing Party

/ s / Shannon Black
/ s / Kevin Black
/ s / Laurence M. Berlin
(assisting with brief)

Signature of Coursel or Party
July 15, 2021

Date

And:

/ s / Laurence M. Berlin

Laurence M. Berlin
essisting Appellants by preparation
of the foregoing Petition for Review

13. Respondent violated Rule 42, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., ER 3.4(c), ER 5.5, and ER 8.4(d), Rule 33(c), and Rule 54(c).

#### CONDITIONAL ADMISSIONS

Respondent's admissions are being tendered in exchange for the form of discipline stated below and are submitted freely and voluntarily and not as a result of coercion or intimidation. Respondent conditionally admits that he violated Rule 42, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., specifically ER 3.4(c), 5.5, 8.4(d), Rule 33(c), and Rule 54(c).

## **CONDITIONAL DISMISSALS**

There are no conditional dismissals.

## RESTITUTION

Restitution is not an issue in this matter.

## **SANCTION**

Respondent and the State Bar of Arizona agree that based on the facts and circumstances of this matter, as set forth above, the following sanctions are appropriate: Suspension of six (6) months and one (1) day. If Respondent violates any of the terms of this agreement, the State Bar may bring further discipline proceedings.

# LEGAL GROUNDS IN SUPPORT OF SANCTION

In determining an appropriate sanction, the parties consulted the American Bar Association's *Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions (Standards)* pursuant

to Rule 57(a)(2)(E). The *Standards* are designed to promote consistency in the imposition of sanctions by identifying relevant factors that courts should consider and then applying those factors to situations where lawyers have engaged in various types of misconduct. *Standards* 1.3, Commentary. The *Standards* provide guidance with respect to an appropriate sanction in this matter.

In determining an appropriate sanction the Court considers the duty violated, the lawyer's mental state, the actual or potential injury caused by the misconduct and the existence of aggravating and mitigating factors.

The parties agree that the following Standard applies: Standard 8.0 Prior Discipline Orders. Standard 8.1(a) provides that disbarment is generally appropriate when a lawyer intentionally or knowingly violates the terms of a prior disciplinary order and such violation causes injury or potential injury to a client, the public, the legal system, or the profession. The commentary to this standard notes, "The most common case is one where a lawyer has been suspended but, nevertheless, practices law."

Here, Respondent was suspended for six months by a final judgment and order dated July 21, 2020, accepting an agreement for discipline by consent in PDJ2020-9017. The suspension went into effect on August 20, 2020. Respondent made no

attempt to reinstate. He nevertheless prepared and filed documents on behalf of his former clients on December 28, 2020, February 11, 2021, and July 15, 2021. He prepared and filed briefs in three different courts: the Office of Administrative Hearings, the Arizona Court of Appeals, and the Arizona Supreme Court<sup>2</sup>. Although Respondent was candid in the briefs in revealing his suspension, he nevertheless caused injury to the system and the profession by engaging it the unauthorized practice of law in violation of a discipline order suspending him. He caused potential injury to his clients because the courts could have rejected the briefs.

# The duty violated

Respondent's conduct violated his duty to the profession, the legal system and the public.

# The lawyer's mental state

Respondent knowingly was in violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct when he prepared and filed briefs while suspended, in violation of a disciplinary order.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> All filings were for Shannon and Kevin Black in connection with the same single dispute with the State of Arizona.

## The extent of the actual or potential injury

There was actual harm to the profession, the legal system and the public.

# Aggravating and mitigating circumstances

The presumptive sanction is disbarment. The parties conditionally agree that the following aggravating and mitigating factors should be considered:

## In aggravation:

- a) 9.22(a) prior disciplinary offenses: Respondent was suspended for six months in PDJ2020-9017;
- b) 9.22(c) a pattern of misconduct: Respondent prepared and filed briefs in three different courts while suspended, including after ADPCC had just issued an order of probable cause regarding his unauthorized filings in two courts;
- c) 9.22(d) multiple offenses: Respondent prepared and filed briefs in three different courts while suspended, including after ADPCC had just issued an order of probable cause regarding his unauthorized filings in two courts; and
- d) 9.22(i) substantial experience in the practice of law: Respondent was admitted to practice in Arizona in 1980.

## In mitigation:

- a) 9.32(b) absence of a dishonest or selfish motive: Respondent gained nothing from his conduct and was concerned only about not abandoning helpless clients;
- b) 9.32(e) full and free disclosure to disciplinary board or cooperative attitude toward proceedings: Respondent has fully cooperated with the Bar and made full disclosure of his status in the questioned filings in all tribunals;
- c) 9.32(g) character or reputation: Good character and reputation were recognized in connection with the original suspension. Respondent's sole motive in preparing the documents which led to the current charges was to prevent harm to Mr. and Mrs. Black, who had no realistic chance of obtaining substitute counsel;
- d) 9.32(k) imposition of other penalties or sanctions: Respondent was unable to apply for reinstatement from the initial suspension because of the pendency of the current charges, so he has now been suspended for thirteen (13) months (and counting) on his six-month suspension;
- e) 9.32(1) remorse: Respondent regrets his failure to be more diligent in seeking the assistance of the Bar or other lawyers in obtaining substitute representation

for these clients. Respondent simply could not find an economically viable way to get another lawyer to take over this case.

## **Discussion**

The parties conditionally agree that upon application of the aggravating and mitigating factors a lesser sanction is appropriate. This agreement is based on the following: Respondent asserts, and the State Bar accepts for purposes of this agreement, that he was acting in the interests of Mr. and Mrs. Black at all times in the conduct which led to the current charges. The clients' case against the State of Arizona was very unique and particularly within a narrow area of law in which Respondent was very experienced. The clients could not afford to pay a lawyer on an hourly basis and Mr. Berlin was working on a contingent fee agreement. The case was lost in the Superior Court, and only appellate action remained. Expecting a new lawyer to enter the case was not reasonable. Respondent had to figure out a way to help the clients or abandon them. For not doing a good enough job on getting substitute counsel, Respondent is willing to serve six more months of suspension, plus one day, but he should not be disbarred. Respondent has served the Bar and his clients honorably for 40 years. As he has wound down his practice, he has experienced significant financial, emotional, physical and family problems which have resulted in a few professional errors. He has been away from the practice of law for more than a year and, if he ever returns, it will likely be close to two years or more because he will be required to complete the more formal Rule 65 reinstatement process. The parties agree that this is an adequate sanction for the conduct here.

Based on the *Standards* and in light of the facts and circumstances of this matter, the parties conditionally agree that the sanction set forth above is within the range of appropriate sanction and will serve the purposes of lawyer discipline.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The object of lawyer discipline is not to punish the lawyer, but to protect the public, the profession and the administration of justice. In re *Peasley, 208 Ariz. 27 (2004)*. Recognizing that determination of the appropriate sanction is the prerogative of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge, the State Bar and Respondent believe that the objectives of discipline will be met by the imposition of the proposed sanction of Suspension and the imposition of costs and expenses. A proposed form of order is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

**DATED** this \_\_\_\_ day of October 2021

STATE BAR OF ARIZONA

Kelly J. Flood Staff Bar Counsel

This agreement, with conditional admissions, is submitted freely and voluntarily and not under coercion or intimidation. I acknowledge my duty under the Rules of the Supreme Court with respect to discipline and reinstatement. I understand these duties may include notification of clients, return of property and other rules pertaining to suspension.

**DATED** this 8<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021.

/s/ Laurence M. Berlin
Respondent

**DATED** this 8<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021.

BROENING OBERG WOODS & WILSON PC

/s/ Terrence P. Woods
Terrence P Woods
Counsel for Respondent

Approved as to form and content

March Vessella
Chief Bar Counsel

Original filed with the Disciplinary Clerk of the Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge of the Supreme Court of Arizona this Stay of October, 2021.

Copy of the foregoing emailed this straightful day of October, 2021, to:

The Honorable Margaret H. Downie Presiding Disciplinary Judge Supreme Court of Arizona 1501 West Washington Street, Suite 102 Phoenix, Arizona 85007 E-mail: officepdj@courts.az.gov

Copy of the foregoing emailed this day of October, 2021, to:

Terrence P. Woods Broening Oberg Woods & Wilson PC 2800 N CENTRAL AVE STE 1600 PHOENIX, AZ 85004-1047 Email: tpw@bowwlaw.com Respondent's Counsel

Copy of the foregoing hand-delivered

this grade and of October, 2021, to:

Lawyer Regulation Records Manager State Bar of Arizona 4201 N. 24<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 100 Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266

by:\_\_\_\_ KJF/js EXHIBIT A

# Statement of Costs and Expenses

In the Matter of a Suspended Member of the State Bar of Arizona Laurence M. Berlin, Bar No. 006558, Respondent

File No. 21-0786

# Administrative Expenses

The Supreme Court of Arizona has adopted a schedule of administrative expenses to be assessed in lawyer discipline. If the number of charges/complainants exceeds five, the assessment for the general administrative expenses shall increase by 20% for each additional charge/complainant where a violation is admitted or proven.

Factors considered in the administrative expense are time expended by staff bar counsel, paralegal, secretaries, typists, file clerks and messenger; and normal postage charges, telephone costs, office supplies and all similar factors generally attributed to office overhead. As a matter of course, administrative costs will increase based on the length of time it takes a matter to proceed through the adjudication process.

# General Administrative Expenses for above-numbered proceedings

\$1,200.00

Additional costs incurred by the State Bar of Arizona in the processing of this disciplinary matter, and not included in administrative expenses, are itemized below.

# **Additional Costs**

Total for additional costs

<u>\$ 0.00</u>

TOTAL COSTS AND EXPENSES INCURRED

\$ 1,200.00

**EXHIBIT B** 

#### BEFORE THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE

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

LAURENCE M. BERLIN, Bar No. 006558, PDJ 2021-9067

FINAL JUDGMENT AND ORDER

State Bar No. 21-0786

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

Accordingly:

IT IS ORDERED that Respondent, Laurence M. Berlin, is Suspended for six
(6) months and one (1) day for his conduct in violation of the Arizona Rules of
Professional Conduct, as outlined in the consent documents, effective immediately.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, upon reinstatement, Respondent shall be subject to any terms of probation imposed as a result of reinstatement hearings held.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent shall be subject to any additional terms imposed by the Presiding Disciplinary Judge as a result of reinstatement hearings held.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to Rule 72 Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., Respondent shall immediately comply with the requirements relating to notification of clients and others.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent pay the costs and expenses of the State Bar of Arizona in the amount \$1,200.00, within 30 days from the date of service of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent shall pay the costs and expenses incurred by the disciplinary clerk and/or Presiding Disciplinary Judge's Office in connection with these disciplinary proceedings in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_\_, within 30 days from the date of service of this Order.

DATED this day of October, 2021.

Margaret H. Downie, Presiding Disciplinary Judge

Original filed with the Disciplinary Clerk of the Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge of the Supreme Court of Arizona this day of October, 2021.
Copies of the foregoing mailed/emailed this day of October, 2021, to:
Terrence P. Woods Broening Oberg Woods & Wilson PC 2800 N CENTRAL AVE STE 1600 PHOENIX, AZ 85004-1047 Email: tpw@bowwlaw.com Respondent's Counsel
Copy of the foregoing emailed/hand-delivered this day of October, 2021, to:
Kelly J Flood Staff Bar Counsel State Bar of Arizona 4201 N 24 <sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100 Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266 Email: LRO@staff.azbar.org
Copy of the foregoing hand-delivered this day of October, 2021 to:
Lawyer Regulation Records Manager State Bar of Arizona 4201 N 24 <sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100 Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266
by:

## BEFORE THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE

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

LAURENCE M. BERLIN, Bar No. 006558

Respondent.

PDJ 2021-9067

DECISION ACCEPTING AGREEMENT FOR DISCIPLINE BY CONSENT

[State Bar No. 21-0786, 21-1698]

FILED October 25, 2021

Pursuant to Rule 57(a), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., an Agreement for Discipline by Consent was filed on October 8, 2021. A Probable Cause Order issued on July 13, 2021, and the formal complaint was filed on August 8, 2021. The State Bar of Arizona is represented by Kelly J. Flood. Mr. Berlin is represented by Terrence P. Woods.

Rule 57 requires that admissions be tendered "in exchange for the stated form of discipline." The respondent lawyer's right to an adjudicatory hearing is waived only if the conditional admissions and proposed form of discipline are approved. If an agreement is not accepted, the conditional admissions are withdrawn and may not be used in any subsequent proceeding. Contingent on approval of the proposed form of discipline, Mr. Berlin has voluntarily waived the right to an adjudicatory hearing, as well as all motions, defenses, objections, or requests that could be asserted. The State Bar is the complainant in these matters, so no notice is necessary under Rule 53(b)(3).

The Agreement details a factual basis to support the conditional admissions and is incorporated by reference. *See* Rule 57(a)(4). Mr. Berlin admits that he violated Rule 42, ERs

3.4(c) (knowingly disobey obligation under rules of tribunal), 5.5 (unauthorized practice of law), 8.4(d) (conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice), and Rules 33(c) (practice in courts), and 54(c) (knowing violation of court rule/order). As a sanction, the parties agree to a six month and one day suspension and the payment of costs in the sum of \$1,200.00 within 30 days of the final judgment and order.

The parties stipulate that while suspended in PDJ 202-9017, Mr. Berlin engaged in the unauthorized practice of law by filing documents on three separate occasions and before three separate courts/tribunals. The parties stipulate that Mr. Berlin knowingly violated his duties to the profession, the legal system, and the public. His conduct caused actual harm to the profession, legal system, and the public.

The presumptive sanction is disbarment under ABA Standard 8.1 – Prior Discipline Orders. The parties stipulate to the existence of aggravating factors 9.22(a) (prior disciplinary offenses), 9.22(c) (pattern of misconduct), 9.22(d) (multiple offenses), and 9.22(i) (substantial experience in the practice of law). The parties further stipulate to the existence of mitigating factors 9.32(b) (absence of selfish or dishonest motive), 9.32(e) (full and free disclosure to disciplinary board or cooperative attitude towards proceedings), 9.32(g) (character or reputation), 9.32(k) (imposition of other penalties or sanctions), and 9.32(l) remorse. The parties further agree that Mr. Berlin was acting to protect his clients' interests in the three matters and was not motivated by self-interest. Upon application of the aggravating and mitigating factors, the parties stipulate that a long-term suspension is the appropriate sanction.

IT IS ORDERED accepting the Agreement. A final judgment and order is signed this date.

**DATED** this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October 2021.

Margaret H. Downie

Margaret H. Downie Presiding Disciplinary Judge

COPY of the foregoing e-mailed on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October 2021 to:

Kelly J. Flood Bar Counsel State Bar of Arizona 4201 N. 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100 Phoenix, AZ 85016-6288 Email: LRO@staff.azbar.org

by: MSmith

Terrence P. Woods Broening Oberg Woods & Wilson PC 2800 N. Central Avenue, Suite 1600 Phoenix, AZ 85004-1047 Email: tpw@bowwlaw.com Respondent's Counsel

## BEFORE THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE

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

LAURENCE M. BERLIN, Bar No. 006558

Respondent.

PDJ 2021-9067

FINAL JUDGMENT AND ORDER

State Bar No. 21-0786

FILED October 25, 2021

The Presiding Disciplinary Judge accepted the parties' Agreement for Discipline by Consent submitted pursuant to Rule 57(a), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct.

Accordingly:

IT IS ORDERED that Respondent, LAURANCE M. BERLIN, Bar No. 006558, is suspended from the practice of law in Arizona for six months and one day for his conduct in violation of the Arizona Rules of Professional Conduct, as outlined in the consent documents, effective immediately.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that upon reinstatement, Respondent shall be subject to any terms of probation imposed as a result of reinstatement hearings held.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent shall comply with the requirements of Rule 72, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., including notifying clients, counsel, and courts of his suspension.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent shall pay the costs and expenses of the State Bar of Arizona in the sum \$1,200.00, within 30 days from the date of service of this order. There are no costs or expenses incurred by the Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge in these proceedings.

**DATED** this 25th day of October, 2021.

Margaret H. Downie

Margaret H. Downie Presiding Disciplinary Judge

Copies of the foregoing emailed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021, to:

Terrence P. Woods Broening Oberg Woods & Wilson PC 2800 N Central Avenue STE 1600 Phoenix, AZ 85004-1047 Email: tpw@bowwlaw.com Respondent's Counsel

Kelly J Flood Staff Bar Counsel State Bar of Arizona 4201 N 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100 Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266 Email: LRO@staff.azbar.org

by: MSmith