

Mar 7, 2024

Disciplinary
BoardDISCIPLINARY BOARD
WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Docket # 143

In re

Proceeding No. 20#00058

PAUL ARNOLD WALLSTROM,

DISCIPLINARY BOARD ORDER
ADOPTING HEARING OFFICER'S
DECISION

Lawyer (WSBA No.8605)

This matter came before the Disciplinary Board at its March 1, 2024, meeting, on Respondent's appeal of Hearing Officer Henry Edward Stiles II Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Recommendation of Hearing Officer, recommending disbarment, following a hearing.

The Board reviews the Hearing Officer's finding of fact for substantial evidence. The Board reviews Conclusions of Law and Sanction Recommendations de novo. Evidence not presented to the Hearing Officer or panel cannot be considered by the Board. ELC 11.12(b).

Having reviewed the materials submitted, and considered the applicable case law and rules;

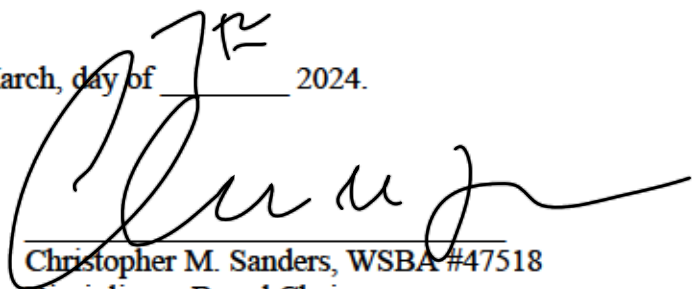
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the Hearing Officer's decision is adopted¹²³

¹ The vote on this matter was 10-0. Those voting were: Sanders, Severson, Ashby, Overby, Davenport, Tindell, Brangwin, Zeidel, Hayes, and Cohon. Jones, Atreya, Endter, and Idbaatar did not participate.

² Cohon, Severson, Ashby, Overby, and Brangwin voted to adopt the Hearing Officer's decision, because based on the unchallenged Findings and Conclusions by the Hearings Officer, the Respondent's conduct in this case warrants the presumptive sanction of disbarment, and thus the Board is constrained to impose that sanction 'absent extraordinary mitigating circumstances.' Any delay in this case, whether considered by itself or in combination with the other mitigating and aggravating factors, does not rise to the level of extraordinary mitigating circumstances, regardless of whether it is evaluated against the standard articulated in *In re Disciplinary Proceeding Against Preszler*, 169 Wn.2d 1, 232 P.3d 1118 (2010), or simply, as Respondent urges, under ELC 1.4 without consideration of that opinion.

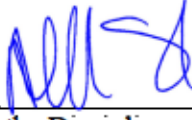
³ Sanders found that there was no delay when the last admitted conduct occurred in 2017, the same year that the Office of Disciplinary Counsel began its investigation.

1 Dated this March, day of 7th 2024.

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3 Christopher M. Sanders, WSBA #47518
4 Disciplinary Board Chair
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~~ENTIRE OBSERVE~~

I certify that I caused a copy of the DB Order Adopting HO's Decision to be emailed to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel and to Respondent's Counsel Kurt M. Bulmer, at kbulmer@comcast.net, on the 7th day of March, 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Nell' followed by a stylized flourish.

Clerk to the Disciplinary Board