



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

STATEWIDE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

Michael P. Bowler, *Statewide Bar Counsel*

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Attorney Mark Dubois
Chief Disciplinary Counsel
100 Washington Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Attorney James O. Walsh
Lasala, Walsh, Wicklow & Velardi, LLC
168 Bradley Street
P.O. Box 1302
New Haven, CT 06505-1302

RE: Grievance Complaint #07-1006, Bowles v. Walsh

Dear Chief Disciplinary Counsel and Respondent:

Pursuant to Practice Book §2-82(b), the undersigned, duly-appointed reviewing committee of the Statewide Grievance Committee, has reviewed the *Respondent's Acknowledgement of Sufficient Proof of Misconduct and Agreement on Disposition* filed February 14, 2008 and submitted for approval in the above referenced matter. After careful consideration of the *Acknowledgement and Agreement*, the *Affidavit* of the Respondent submitted pursuant to Practice Book §2-82(d) and the entire record of the complaint, and after conducting a hearing pursuant to Practice Book §2-82(b) on February 14, 2008, the undersigned hereby APPROVE the *Acknowledgement and Agreement*, a copy of which is attached hereto together with the *Affidavit* of the Respondent. Accordingly, the disposition agreed to by the Chief Disciplinary Counsel and the Respondent in the above referenced matter and set forth in the *Acknowledgement and Agreement* is hereby made an order of this reviewing committee. The Respondent is reprimanded.

Reviewing committee member Dr. Frank Regan was not available for the February 14, 2008 hearing. The Chief Disciplinary Counsel and Respondent's counsel waived the participation of Dr. Regan in the consideration and decision of the *Acknowledgement and Agreement*. Accordingly, the matter was considered and decided by the undersigned.

Grievance Complaint #07-1006

Decision

Page 2

So ordered.

cc: Roger Bowles
Attorney David P. Atkins
Attorney Michael A. Georgetti

(3)
asc

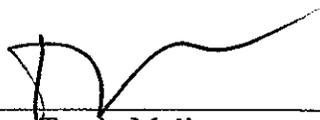
DECISION DATE: 3/20/08

Grievance Complaint #07-1006
Decision
Page 3



Attorney Geoffrey Naab

Grievance Complaint #07-1006
Decision
Page 4



Attorney Tracie Molinaro

NO. 07-1006)	
)	
ROGER BOWLES,)	
)	CONNECTICUT STATEWIDE
Complainant,)	
)	GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
vs.)	
)	
JAMES O. WALSH,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

**RESPONDENT'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SUFFICIENT
PROOF OF MISCONDUCT AND AGREEMENT ON DISPOSITION**

Pursuant to Practice Book §2-82(a), the undersigned Respondent, counsel for Respondent and Disciplinary Counsel stipulate and agree as follows:

1. This matter was instituted by a Grievance Complaint filed by Roger Bowles dated October 10, 2007.
2. By a written notice dated November 23, 2007, the Grievance Panel for the New Haven Judicial District, Towns of Bethany, New Haven and Woodbridge, found probable cause that the Respondent had violated Rule 8.4(4) of the Rules of Professional Conduct in connection with his acknowledging a signature on a mortgage instrument dated April 11, 2005.
3. Respondent has tendered an Affidavit in accordance with Practice Book §2-82, admitting certain of the facts of the Complaint and acknowledging that at a hearing on the Complaint there would be sufficient evidence to establish his violation of Rule 8.4(4). Respondent's Affidavit accompanies this Agreement.
4. Respondent and Disciplinary Counsel have agreed that this matter should be disposed of by a Committee imposed reprimand as authorized by Practice Book §2-37(a)(1).

5. A copy of the Agreement and of the Affidavit will be sent to the Complainant.

WHEREFORE, this matter is submitted to the Grievance Committee for its approval in accordance with Practice Book §2-82(a).

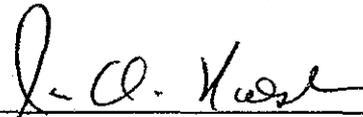
Office of Disciplinary Counsel

Dated: February 14, 2008

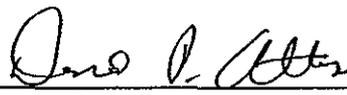

By: Mark A. Dubeis
Chief Disciplinary Counsel

Respondent James O. Walsh

Dated: February 14, 2008


James O. Walsh

Dated: February 14, 2008


David P. Atkins
Attorney for Respondent

NO. 07-1006)
)
ROGER BOWLES,)
)
Complainant,)
)
vs.)
)
JAMES O. WALSH,)
)
Respondent.)

CONNECTICUT STATEWIDE
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

AFFIDAVIT OF RESPONDENT

STATE OF CONNECTICUT)
)
COUNTY OF NEW HAVEN)

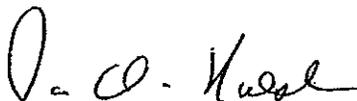
ss. New Haven, February 12, 2008

I am over the age of 18 and believe in the obligation of an oath. Pursuant to Practice Book §2-82(a), I depose and state as follows:

1. This Affidavit and the accompanying "Acknowledgement of Sufficient Proof Of Misconduct and Agreement on Disposition" are both freely and voluntarily submitted. I am not being subjected to coercion or distress, and I am fully aware of the implications of this submission.
2. I am aware that I have a right to a full evidentiary hearing on the allegations of the Grievance Complaint that forms the basis of the findings of probable cause in this matter and I waive that right by offering this admission.
3. I do also understand that by submitting the accompanying Agreement that I agree to both the truth of the facts in this affidavit and to the form of discipline proposed in the Agreement.

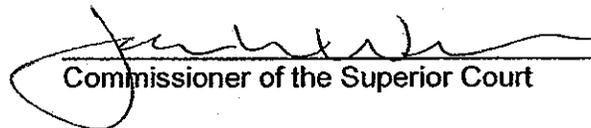
4. I am aware that in this proceeding the Grievance Panel found that, in connection with the transaction described in the Complaint, there is probable cause that I may have violated Rule 8.4(4) of the Connecticut Rules of Professional Conduct.
5. I agree that there is a substantial likelihood that following an evidentiary hearing, a trier of fact could find that I violated Rule 8.4(4).
6. I admit that in providing advice to Nancy Cotto-Bowles I took the acknowledgment of both her signature and the signature of Mr. Bowles on a mortgage instrument dated April 11, 2005. The document was signed in connection with a refinancing application I was told was critical for Mr. and Mrs. Bowles to submit in order to prevent the imminent entry of a foreclosure judgment on their residence. I also was told that because of illness, Mr. Bowles was unable to travel to my office. I am aware that Mr. Bowles now alleges that he was not present when I acknowledged his signature on the instrument. It has been, and is my consistent practice to take acknowledgments only in the presence of signators. Although I believe that I acted consistently with this practice in Mr. Bowles' case, I cannot establish that he is mistaken in his belief.
7. I admit that, if, indeed, I acknowledged the signature of Mr. Bowles on the instrument at issue when he was not in my presence, it would have been a violation of Rule 8.4(4) of the Rules of Professional Conduct. I am willing to be reprimanded based upon the information contained in Paragraphs 1 through 6 of this Affidavit.

8. Other than charging and receiving a fee for my work in the 2005 refinance transaction, I had no interest, financial or otherwise, in the transaction. I understand that as a result of the 2005 refinancing, the Bowles' residence was saved from foreclosure.



James O. Walsh

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12 day of February, 2008.



Commissioner of the Superior Court