



Michael P. Bowler
Statewide Bar Counsel

Frances Mickelson-Dera
Christopher L. Slack
First Assistant Bar Counsel

Tel: (860) 568-5157

Fax: (860) 568-4953

STATEWIDE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

www.jud.ct.gov/sgc/
Second Floor - Suite Two
287 Main Street, East Hartford, Connecticut 06118-1885

11/14/2011

OFFICE OF CHIEF DISCIPLINARY C
100 WASHINGTON STREET
HARTFORD CT 06106

WILLIAM JAMES MCMORRIS JR
SLUTSKY, MCMORRIS &
396 DANBURY ROAD
WILTON CT 06897

RE: GRIEVANCE COMPLAINT #11-0173
CROSBY vs. MCMORRIS

Dear Respondent and Disciplinary Counsel:

Enclosed herewith is the decision of the reviewing committee of the Statewide Grievance Committee concerning the above referenced matter. In accordance with the Practice Book Sections 2-35, 2-36 and 2-38(a), the Respondent may, within thirty (30) days of the date of this notice, submit to the Statewide Grievance Committee a request for review of the decision.

A request for review must be sent to the Statewide Grievance Committee at the address listed above.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Bowler

Encl.

cc: Attorney Eugene J. Riccio
GOLDBERG SEGALLA LLP
Nicole Crosby

NOTICE REGARDING DECISION
SANCTIONS OR CONDITIONS

GRIEVANCE COMPLAINT # 11-0173

THE ATTACHED DECISION IS PRESENTLY STAYED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRACTICE BOOK §§2-35 AND 2-38.

SECTION 2-35 STATES, IN PART, AS FOLLOWS:

(e) ... Enforcement of the final decision ... shall be stayed for thirty days from the date of the issuance to the parties of the final decision. In the event the respondent timely submits to the Statewide Grievance Committee a request for review of the final decision of the reviewing committee, such stay shall remain in full force and effect pursuant to Section 2-38(b).

SECTION 2-38 STATES, IN PART, AS FOLLOWS:

(b) ... Enforcement of a decision by a reviewing committee imposing sanctions or conditions against the respondent ... shall be stayed for thirty days from the issuance to the parties of the final decision of the reviewing committee pursuant to Section 2-35(g). If within that period the respondent files with the Statewide Grievance Committee a request for review of the reviewing committee's decision, the stay shall remain in effect for thirty days from the issuance by the Statewide Grievance Committee of its final decision pursuant to Section 2-36. If the respondent timely commences an appeal [of the sanctions or conditions to the Superior Court] pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, such stay shall remain in full force and effect until the conclusion of all proceedings, including all appeals, relating to the decision imposing sanctions or conditions against the respondent. If at the conclusion of all proceedings, the decision imposing sanctions or conditions against the respondent is rescinded, the complaint shall be deemed dismissed as of the date of the decision imposing sanctions or conditions against the respondent.

DECISION DATE: 11/14/11



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

STATEWIDE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

Michael P. Bowler, *Statewide Bar Counsel*

287 Main Street
Second Floor – Suite Two
East Hartford, CT 06118-1885
(860) 568-5157 Fax (860) 568-4953
Judicial Branch Website: www.jud.ct.gov

Attorney Karyl Carrasquilla
Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel
100 Washington Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Attorney William J. McMorris
Slutsky, McMorris & Meehan, LLP
396 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

RE: Grievance Complaint #11-0173, Crosby v. McMorris

Dear Assistant 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 *Proposed Disposition Pursuant to Practice Book §2-82(b)* (hereinafter "*Proposed Disposition*") filed October 13, 2011 and submitted for approval in the above referenced matter. After careful consideration of the *Proposed Disposition*, 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 October 13, 2011, the undersigned hereby APPROVE the *Proposed Disposition*, a copy of which is attached hereto together with the *Affidavit* of the Respondent. Accordingly, the disposition agreed to by the Assistant Disciplinary Counsel and the Respondent in the above referenced matter and set forth in the *Proposed Disposition* is hereby made an order of this reviewing committee. The Respondent is reprimanded.

We further order the Respondent to attend, in-person and at his own expense, eight hours of continuing legal education ("CLE") in Connecticut law. At least three hours of the CLE shall be in legal ethics. On-line courses and materials only courses do not comply. The course must cover Connecticut law. The CLE courses are to be taken within nine months of the approval of this agreement. The Respondent will provide the Statewide Grievance Committee and the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel with written confirmation of his compliance with this condition within thirty days of completion of the CLE courses. The written confirmation should be in the form of a certificate of attendance or similar documentation from the course provider. So ordered.

cc: Nicole Crosby
Attorney Elizabeth M. Cristofaro

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Attorney Eugene Riccio

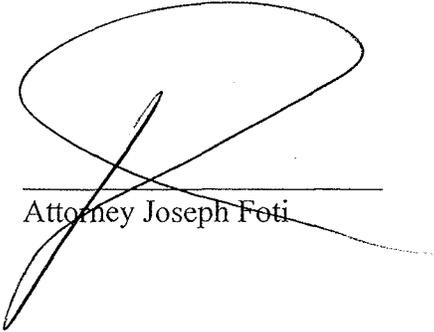
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DECISION DATE: 11/14/11

Grievance Complaint #11-0173

Decision

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Attorney Joseph Foti

STATEWIDE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

NICOLE CROSBY, ET AL.
Complainant

GRIEVANCE COMPLAINT #
11-0173

v.

WILLIAM J. MCMORRIS, JR.
Respondent

PROPOSED DISPOSITION PURSUANT TO PRACTICE BOOK § 2-82(b)

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

1. William J. McMorris, Jr. (hereinafter Respondent), juris number 305982, was admitted to the bar of the State of Connecticut on November 20, 1986. He has been administratively suspended for non-payment to the Client Security Fund in 2002 and 2008. He is now current in his payments to the Client Security Fund. He was reprimanded in 2003 and in 2005 was ordered by the superior court to take and pass the MPRE, which he did later that year.
2. The Respondent has registered with the Statewide Grievance Committee for 2011 and is currently in good standing.
3. This matter was instituted by grievance complaint dated March 1, 2011.
4. On August 5, 2011, the Stamford/Norwalk Judicial District Grievance Panel found probable cause that the Respondent violated Rules 1.1, 1.3, and 1.4 of the Rules of Professional Conduct.
5. The Respondent has tendered an affidavit pursuant to Practice Book § 2-82(d) attached hereto, and admits that he failed to diligently seek reopening of the dismissal of the Crosby's lawsuit that is at issue in this grievance complaint and that this conduct violated Rule 1.3 of the Rules of Professional Conduct.
6. The Respondent and Disciplinary Counsel agree that the Respondent will be reprimanded pursuant to Practice Book Section 2-37(a).
7. The Respondent and Disciplinary Counsel further agree that the Respondent will attend in person and at his own expense eight (8) credit hours of continuing legal

education ("CLE") courses regarding Connecticut law. A minimum of three (3) credit hours must be in Legal Ethics. Online courses and materials only courses do not comply. The CLE courses are to be taken within nine (9) months of the approval of this agreement. The Respondent will provide the Statewide Grievance Committee and the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel with written confirmation of his compliance with these conditions within 30 days of completion of the CLE courses.

8. Respondent further agrees that his corporate and litigation matters will be monitored by his partners, Michael A. Slutsky and William A. Meehan, for a period of one year from the date of approval of this proposed agreement. Respondent shall provide Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel with quarterly status reports from Attorneys Slutsky and/or Meehan.
9. The Respondent and Disciplinary Counsel understand and agree that Respondent's failure to comply with all of the terms stated herein will result in the filing of a presentment pursuant to Practice Book Section 2-37c.
10. The Respondent and Disciplinary Counsel agree that Disciplinary Counsel will recommend that the Statewide Grievance Committee impose the sanctions set forth in this proposed disposition. If this agreement is rejected by the Statewide Grievance Committee, Disciplinary Counsel will pursue this matter at a contested hearing.

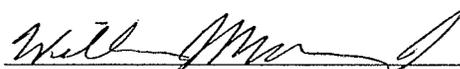
WHEREFORE, this matter is submitted to the Statewide Grievance Committee for its approval in accordance with Practice Book § 2-82(b).

Office of Disciplinary Counsel,

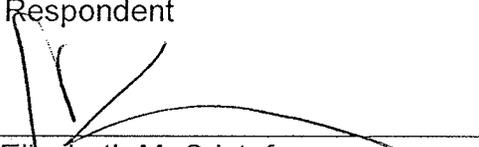
10-13-11
Date

By: 
Karyl L. Carrasquilla
Assistant Disciplinary Counsel

10-13-11
Date


William J. McMorris, Jr.
Respondent

10-13-11
Date


Elizabeth M. Cristofaro
Attorney for Respondent

STATEWIDE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

NICOLE CROSBY ET AL.
Complainant

GRIEVANCE COMPLAINT #
11-0173

v.

WILLIAM J. MCMORRIS, JR.
Respondent

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF CONNECTICUT)

COUNTY OF

ss.

Middlesex *Middletown*

I am over the age of 18 and believe in the obligation of an oath. Pursuant to Practice Book § 2-82(d), I make the following affidavit:

1. The Proposed Disposition attached hereto and made a part hereof is voluntarily submitted.
2. I hereby consent to the form of disposition set out in the foregoing Proposed Disposition.
3. I am aware that I have a right to a full evidentiary hearing on this matter with the assistance of an attorney and I waive that right by entering into this agreement.
4. I have been neither subject to coercion nor duress and I am fully aware of the consequences of this Affidavit and Proposed Disposition.
5. I have consulted and been advised by my attorney, Elizabeth M. Cristofaro, regarding this matter and proposed disposition.
6. I am aware of the current proceeding regarding my alleged violation of Rules 1.1, 1.3 and 1.4 of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

7. I admit that I failed to diligently seek reopening of the dismissal of the Complainants' lawsuit which is the subject of this grievance and that this conduct violated Rule 1.3 of the Rules of Professional Conduct.
8. I agree to a reprimand pursuant to Practice Book Section 2-37(a).
9. I agree to attend in person and at my own expense eight (8) credit hours of continuing legal education ("CLE") regarding Connecticut law. A minimum of three (3) credit hours will consist of Legal Ethics. Online courses and materials only courses do not comply. These CLE courses are to be taken within nine (9) months of the approval of this agreement. I understand and agree that it is my obligation to provide the Statewide Grievance Committee and the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel with written confirmation of my compliance with these conditions within (30) thirty days of completion of the CLE courses.
10. I further agree that all of my corporate and litigation matters will be monitored by Michael Slutsky and William Meehan, for a period of one year from the date of approval of this proposed agreement. I agree to provide the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel with quarterly status reports from Attorneys Slutsky and/or Meehan.
11. I further understand and agree that my failure to comply with all of the terms and conditions stated herein will result in the filing of a presentment pursuant to Practice Book Section 2-37c.
12. Finally, I understand and agree that Disciplinary Counsel will recommend that this matter be resolved by the imposition of the sanctions set forth in the proposed disposition. If this agreement is rejected by the Statewide Grievance Committee, Disciplinary Counsel will pursue this matter at a contested hearing.