

NOTICE

Notice of Suspension of Attorney

Pursuant to Practice Book § 2-54, notice is hereby given that on July 6, 2021 in NNH-CV19-6096576, Andrew M. Amendola (juris no. 000522) of East Haven CT was suspended from the practice of law in Connecticut as follows:

AS TO THE FIRST COUNT (RANDOM AUDIT):

1. The Respondent, Andrew M. Amendola, admits, and it is hereby found, that he violated Practice Book § 2-27(e) and Rule 8.1(2) of the Rules of Professional Conduct, as more fully set forth in the First Count of the Amended Presentment dated January 22, 2020.
2. The Respondent shall be suspended from the practice of law for a period of thirty (30) days, effective July 12, 2021, to run concurrent with the suspension imposed pursuant to the Third Count herein.
3. The Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel shall immediately notify the Chief Clerks of all Judicial Districts and Probate Court Administration of the Respondent's suspension.
4. Pursuant to Practice Book § 2-64, Attorney Frances B. Granquist, Juris No. 306952, of Pellegrino Law Firm, 475 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511, is appointed Trustee to take such steps as are necessary to protect the interests of Respondent's clients, inventory the client files, receive the business mail, and take control of Respondent's clients' funds, IOLTA, and all fiduciary accounts. **The Trustee shall not make any disbursements from said accounts without the prior authorization of the Court.** The Trustee shall notify all active clients of the Respondent's suspension and the need to arrange for their self-representation or successor counsel, if necessary.
5. The Trustee shall take control of any and all clients' funds, IOLTA, and fiduciary account(s) by coordinating with the bank(s) to remove the Respondent as an authorized signatory on the account(s), and adding the Trustee as the sole signatory.
6. Within 72 hours of this order, the Respondent shall provide the Trustee with:
 - a. a written list of active/pending files to include the client's name, address, telephone number, email address, description of the matter, amount of retainer paid (if any), itemization of all billing identifying any balance remaining, and whether there are any scheduled court dates, statute of limitations, deadlines, or other activity needing immediate attention.
 - b. all active/pending files as identified in Paragraph 6(a) above.
 - c. a list of all clients' funds, IOLTA and/or fiduciary accounts maintained by the Respondent, including the name of the banking institution and account number. The Respondent shall also provide the Trustee with all remaining original checks for each account.
 - d. Respondent's contact information during the period of suspension, including phone number(s) and email address.

7. The Respondent shall not deposit to, disburse any funds from, withdraw any funds from, or transfer any funds from, any clients' funds, IOLTA, or fiduciary accounts.
8. The Respondent shall comply with Practice Book § 2-47B (Restrictions on the Activities of Deactivated Attorneys).
9. The Respondent shall cooperate with the Trustee in all respects.
10. The Respondent shall create and maintain IOLTA account records that are in compliance with Rule 1.15(j) of the Rules of Professional Conduct.
11. The Respondent shall complete all outstanding issues and directives set forth in the letter dated March 1, 2019 from the Statewide Grievance Committee to the Respondent. All outstanding issues and directives shall be completed by August 31, 2021.
12. The Respondent shall submit to, and fully cooperate with, quarterly audits of his IOLTA account at Key Bank ending in #2055 by the Statewide Grievance Committee for the period beginning June 1, 2021 through and including May 31, 2023. Any additional audit period may be determined at the discretion of the Statewide Grievance Committee.
13. The Respondent's failure to comply with these orders shall be considered misconduct and may subject the Respondent to additional discipline.

AS TO THE SECOND COUNT (BOWLER VS. AMENDOLA, #18-0400):

1. The Respondent, Andrew M. Amendola, admits, and it is hereby found, that he violated Rules 1.15(b) and 8.1(2) of the Rules of Professional Conduct, as well as § 2-27(b) of the Connecticut Practice Book, as more fully set forth in the Second Count of the Amended Presentment dated January 22, 2020.
2. The Respondent shall take, at his own expense, three credit hours of continuing legal education ("CLE") in IOLTA Account Management. The CLE course(s) is to be attended in person, must cover Connecticut law, and must be taken no later than December 31, 2021. The Respondent shall provide the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel with written confirmation of his compliance with this condition within 30 days of completion of the CLE course(s). The written confirmation should be in the form of a certificate of attendance or similar documentation from the course provider(s). Pursuant to Practice Book § 2-27A(c)(4), the CLE course(s) shall be *in addition to*, and cannot be used to satisfy, the Minimum Continuing Legal Education ("MCLE") requirements imposed pursuant to Practice Book § 2-27A. In addition to the written confirmation of compliance with the condition herein, the Respondent shall provide the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel with a completed Continuing Legal Education Log (Form JD-CE-1) evidencing compliance with the MCLE requirements set forth in Practice Book § 2-27A by January 31 of the year(s) following the calendar year in which any portion of the court-ordered CLE were completed.
3. The Respondent shall create and maintain IOLTA account records that are in compliance with Rule 1.15(j) of the Rules of Professional Conduct.
4. The Respondent shall engage the services of a bookkeeper or accountant on or before July 1, 2021. The Respondent agrees to continue to retain

those services through at least July 31, 2023 or until the audits imposed pursuant to the First Count herein are completed, whichever date is later.

5. The Respondent's failure to comply with these orders shall be considered misconduct and may subject the Respondent to additional discipline.

AS TO THE THIRD COUNT (CARLSEN VS. AMENDOLA, #18-0165)

1. Although the Respondent, Andrew M. Amendola, denies some or all of the material facts in the complaint, he acknowledges, and it is hereby found, that there is sufficient evidence to prove by clear and convincing evidence the material facts constituting violations of Rules 1.1, 1.2(a), 1.4(a)(2), 1.5(b), 1.5(e)(1), 1.15(d), 1.15(e), 8.1(2), 8.4(3), and 8.4(4) of the Rules of Professional Conduct, as more fully set forth in the Third Count of the Amended Presentment dated January 22, 2020.
2. The Respondent shall be suspended from the practice of law for a period of three (3) months, effective July 12, 2021.
3. The Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel shall immediately notify the Chief Clerks of all Judicial Districts and Probate Court Administration of the Respondent's suspension.
4. Pursuant to Practice Book § 2-64, Attorney Frances B. Granquist, Juris No. 306952, of Pellegrino Law Firm, 475 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511, is appointed Trustee to take such steps as are necessary to protect the interests of Respondent's clients, inventory the client files, receive the business mail, and take control of Respondent's clients' funds, IOLTA, and all fiduciary accounts. **The Trustee shall not make any disbursements from said accounts without the prior authorization of the Court.** The Trustee shall notify all active clients of the Respondent's suspension and the need to arrange for their self-representation or successor counsel, if necessary.
5. The Trustee shall take control of any and all clients' funds, IOLTA, and fiduciary account(s) by coordinating with the bank(s) to remove the Respondent as an authorized signatory on the account(s), and adding the Trustee as the sole signatory.
6. Within 72 hours of this order, the Respondent shall provide the Trustee with:
 - a. a written list of active/pending files to include the client's name, address, telephone number, email address, description of the matter, amount of retainer paid (if any), itemization of all billing identifying any balance remaining, and whether there are any scheduled court dates, statute of limitations, deadlines, or other activity needing immediate attention.
 - b. all active/pending files as identified in Paragraph 6(a) above.
 - c. a list of all clients' funds, IOLTA and/or fiduciary accounts maintained by the Respondent, including the name of the banking institution and account number. The Respondent shall also provide the Trustee with all remaining original checks for each account.
 - d. Respondent's contact information during the period of suspension, including phone number(s) and email address.

7. The Respondent shall not deposit to, disburse any funds from, withdraw any funds from, or transfer any funds from, any clients' funds, IOLTA, or fiduciary accounts.
8. The Respondent shall comply with Practice Book § 2-47B (Restrictions on the Activities of Deactivated Attorneys).
9. The Respondent shall cooperate with the Trustee in all respects.
10. The Respondent shall make restitution to his former client, Valerie Carlsen, in the amount of \$3,140.00. Said amount shall be payable to Valerie Carlsen via bank check and shall be sent to Attorney Leanne M. Larson, Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, 100 Washington Street, Hartford, CT 06106, **to be received by June 30, 2021.**
11. The Respondent's failure to comply with these orders shall be considered misconduct and may subject the Respondent to additional discipline.

James W. Abrams
Administrative Judge
