

APPELLATE DIVISION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, THIRD DEPARTMENT

Matter of Gowell

2026 NY Slip Op 02715 (N.Y. Ct. App. 2026) · No. PM-85-26 · Decided April 30, 2026

SUMMARY

The Appellate Division, Third Department granted John R. Gowell Jr.'s application to resign from the New York bar for nondisciplinary reasons. The court accepted his resignation, struck his name from the roll of attorneys, prohibited him from practicing law in New York, and ordered him to surrender any Attorney Secure Pass within 30 days.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Third Department
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Pritzker, J.P.; Ceresia, J.; McShan, J.; Powers, J.; Ryba, J.
JURISDICTION	New York Appellate Division, Third Department
DECIDED	April 30, 2026
DOCKET	PM-85-26
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	An attorney applied for permission to resign from the New York bar for nondisciplinary reasons. The Attorney Grievance Committee did not oppose the application.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion; uncorrected and subject to revision before publication in the Official Reports.
PARTIES	John R. Gowell Jr. v. Attorney Grievance Committee for the Third Judicial Department

TOPICS

appellate procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

legal ethics attorney discipline bar admission and resignation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- 1. Whether John R. Gowell Jr. was eligible to resign from the New York bar for nondisciplinary reasons.
- 2. Whether the court should grant the application, accept the resignation, and impose the related consequences under the attorney disciplinary rules.

HOLDINGS

- 1. An attorney who satisfies the requirements for resignation for nondisciplinary reasons may be permitted to resign from the New York bar, and the court determined that Gowell was eligible.
- 2. Upon accepting the nondisciplinary resignation, the court may strike the attorney's name from the roll, prohibit the practice of law in New York, and require surrender of an Attorney Secure Pass.

KEY QUOTATIONS

- “Upon reading Gowell's affidavit sworn to March 11, 2026 and filed March 16, 2026, and upon reading the April 24, 2026 correspondence in response by the Deputy Chief Attorney for AGC, and having determined that Gowell is eligible to resign for nondisciplinary reasons, we grant his application and accept his resignation.” (1)
- “ORDERED that John R. Gowell Jr.'s application for permission to resign is granted and his nondisciplinary resignation is accepted” (1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

John R. Gowell Jr. was admitted to practice by the court in 2016 and maintained a business address in Jamestown, Rhode Island with the Office of Court Administration. He sought permission to resign from the New York bar for nondisciplinary reasons. The Attorney Grievance Committee for the Third Judicial Department advised that it did not oppose the application.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

John R. Gowell Jr., who was admitted to practice by the Third Department in 2016, submitted an affidavit seeking leave to resign for nondisciplinary reasons. After reviewing the affidavit and the Attorney Grievance Committee's response, the court determined that he was eligible and granted the application.

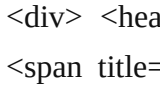
DISPOSITION

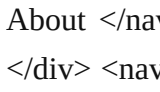
other

OPINION

Matter of Gowell 2026 NY Slip Op 02715
PER CURIAM.

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Matter of Gowell

2026 NY Slip Op 02715
April 30, 2026
Appellate Division, Third Department
Published by New York State Law Reporting Bureau pursuant to Judiciary Law § 431.
This decision is uncorrected and subject to revision before publication in the Official Reports.

In the Matter of John R. Gowell Jr., an Attorney. (Attorney Registration No. 5453857)
Decided and Entered: April 30, 2026
PM-85-26
Calendar Date: April 27, 2026
Before: Pritzker, J.P., Ceresia, Mcshan, Powers And Ryba, JJ.

John R. Gowell Jr., Jamestown, Rhode Island, pro se.
Monica A. Duffy, Attorney Grievance Committee for the Third Judicial Department, Albany (Alison M. Coan of counsel), for Attorney Grievance Committee for the Third Judicial Department.

*1
Per Curiam.
John R. Gowell Jr. was admitted to practice by this Court in 2016 and lists a business address in Jamestown, Rhode Island with the Office of Court Administration. Gowell now seeks leave to resign from the New York bar for nondisciplinary reasons (*see* Rules for Atty Disciplinary Matters [22 NYCRR] § 1240.22 [a]). The Attorney Grievance Committee for the Third Judicial Department (hereinafter AGC) advises that it does not oppose Gowell's application.

Upon reading Gowell's affidavit sworn to March 11, 2026 and filed March 16, 2026, and upon reading the April 24, 2026 correspondence in response by the Deputy Chief Attorney for AGC, and having determined that Gowell is eligible to resign for nondisciplinary reasons, we grant his application and accept his resignation.

Pritzker, J.P., Ceresia, McShan, Powers and Ryba, JJ., concur.

ORDERED that John R. Gowell Jr.'s application for permission to resign is granted and his nondisciplinary resignation is accepted; and it is further

ORDERED that John R. Gowell Jr.'s name is hereby stricken from the roll of attorneys and counselors-at-law of the State of New York, effective immediately, and until further order of this Court (*see generally* Rules for Atty Disciplinary Matters [22 NYCRR] § 1240.22 [b]); and it is further

ORDERED that John R. Gowell Jr. is commanded to desist and refrain from the practice of law in any form in the State of New York, either as principal or as agent, clerk or employee of another; and Gowell is hereby forbidden to appear as an attorney or counselor-at-law before any court, judge, justice, board, commission or other public authority, or to give to another an opinion as to the law or its application, or any advice in relation thereto, or to hold himself out in any way as an attorney and counselor-at-law in this State; and it is further

ORDERED that John R. Gowell Jr. shall, within 30 days of the date of this decision, surrender to the Office of Court Administration any Attorney Secure Pass issued to him.

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PER CURIAM.

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days of the date of this decision, surrender to the Office of Court Administration any Attorney Secure Pass issued to him. Court Decisions All Court Decisions Official Reports Service Bound Volumes Decision Search Resources RSS Feeds Style Manual Citation Tools Opinion Formatting & Privacy Guidelines Opinion Selection Criteria Legal Research Portal Site Index About About the Law Reporting Bureau About our Operations Contact Us Twitter Quick Contact Info 17 Lodge Street Albany, NY 12207 Phone: (518) 453-6900 Links to or from other sites do not signify endorsement or relationship with them.

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