

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