

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS

In re Brian V. Lee

No. 25-BG-0685 (D.C. 2025) · No. 25-BG-0685 · Decided December 11, 2025

SUMMARY

The District of Columbia Court of Appeals approved a negotiated discipline petition concerning attorney Brian V. Lee. The court imposed a 90-day suspension, with 60 days stayed in favor of one year of unsupervised probation subject to specified conditions, based on admitted violations involving client representation, a false statement to disciplinary authorities, and interference with the administration of justice.

CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | District of Columbia Court of Appeals                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Per Curiam; Associate Judge McLeese; Associate Judge Deahl; Senior Judge Thompson                                                                                                                                                      |
| JURISDICTION          | District of Columbia Court of Appeals                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| DECIDED               | December 11, 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| DOCKET                | 25-BG-0685                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| DISPOSITION           | other                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | The District of Columbia Court of Appeals reviewed the Board on Professional Responsibility Hearing Committee's recommendation approving the parties' petition for negotiated attorney discipline.                                     |
| STANDARD OF REVIEW    | The court reviewed the Hearing Committee's recommendation in accordance with its procedures governing negotiated discipline and determined whether the agreed-upon sanction was justified in light of reasonably analogous precedents. |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | Nonprecedential                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

TOPICS

- appellate procedure
- administrative law

PRACTICE AREAS

- legal ethics
- attorney discipline
- professional responsibility
- legal malpractice and client communication

## QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the parties' petition for negotiated attorney discipline should be approved.
2. Whether the agreed-upon sanction of a 90-day suspension, with 60 days stayed in favor of one year of unsupervised probation and conditions, was justified.

## HOLDINGS

1. The petition for negotiated attorney discipline was appropriate for approval.
2. The court imposed a 90-day suspension from the practice of law, with 60 days stayed in favor of one year of unsupervised probation subject to specified conditions.

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Brian V. Lee represented a client in a foreclosure case. He admitted failing to provide representation with the skill and care generally afforded by other lawyers in similar matters, failing to keep the client reasonably informed, and failing to explain the matter sufficiently for the client to make informed decisions. He also admitted knowingly making a false statement of fact to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel and engaging in conduct that seriously interfered with the administration of justice.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Hearing Committee recommended approval of negotiated discipline after respondent Brian V. Lee admitted multiple violations arising from his representation of a client in a foreclosure matter. The proposed sanction was a 90-day suspension, with 60 days stayed in favor of one year of unsupervised probation and specified conditions. The Court reviewed the recommendation under its procedures for negotiated discipline, approved it, and imposed the proposed sanction.

## DISPOSITION

other

## CASES CITED

- In re Mensah, 262 A.3d 1100, 1104 (D.C. 2021) (per curiam)
- In re Evans, 187 A.3d 554 (D.C. 2018) (per curiam)
- In re Alexander, 466 A.2d 447 (D.C. 1983)
- In re Teitelbaum, 303 A.3d 52, 57 (D.C. 2023)

## OPINION

### PER CURIAM.

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COURT OF APPEALS No. 25-BG-0685 IN RE BRIAN V. LEE, RESPONDENT. A Member of the Bar of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals (Bar Registration No. 978834) On Report and Recommendation of the Board on Professional Responsibility Hearing Committee Nine Approving Petition for Negotiated Discipline (BDN: 24-ND-007; DDN: 2023-D069) (Decided December 11, 2025) Before MCLEESE and DEAHL, Associate Judges, and THOMPSON, Senior Judge.

PER CURIAM: This decision is nonprecedential. Please refer to D.C. Bar R. XI, § 12.1(d), governing the appropriate citation of this opinion. In this disciplinary matter, the Hearing Committee recommends approval of the parties' petition for negotiated attorney discipline. Respondent Brian V. Lee acknowledged that in connection with his representation of a client in a foreclosure case, he (1) failed to serve the client with the skill and care commensurate with that generally afforded to clients by other lawyers in similar matters, (2) failed to keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the matter, (3) failed to explain the matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation, (4) knowingly made a false statement of fact to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC), and (5) engaged in conduct that seriously interfered with the administration of justice.

As a result, respondent admits that he violated D.C. R. Pro. Conduct 1.1(b), 1.4(a), 1.4(b), 8.1(a), and 8.4(d). The proposed discipline consists of a 90-day suspension, with 60 days stayed in favor of one year of unsupervised probation with conditions.

Having reviewed the Committee's recommendation in accordance with our procedures in these cases, see D.C. Bar R. XI, § 12.1(d), we agree that this case is appropriate for negotiated discipline and "the agreed-upon sanction is justified," *In re Mensah*, 262 A.3d 1100, 1104 (D.C. 2021) (*per curiam*) (internal quotation marks omitted), in light of reasonably analogous precedents.

See *In re Evans*, 187 A.3d 554 (D.C. 2018) (*per curiam*); *In re Alexander*, 466 A.2d 447 (D.C. 1983); see also *In re Teitelbaum*, 303 A.3d 52, 57 (D.C. 2023) (providing that a negotiated discipline petition "may generally omit to charge a violation if, after reasonable factual investigation, there is a substantial risk that ODC would not be able to establish the violation by clear and convincing evidence").

Accordingly, it is 3 ORDERED that the Board's consent motion for leave is granted, and the lodged confidential appendix to the Hearing Committee's report and recommendation is filed under seal. It is FURTHER ORDERED that respondent Brian V. Lee is hereby suspended from the practice of law in the District of Columbia for 90 days, with 60 days stayed in favor of one year of unsupervised probation with the following conditions: (i) Respondent shall not be the subject of a disciplinary complaint that results in a violation of a disciplinary rule in any jurisdiction in which he is licensed; (ii) Respondent will notify all his clients of the suspension and provide written proof to ODC of having done so within 30 days of the issuance of this opinion; (iii) After he

resumes the practice of law, Respondent will notify all his clients of his probation and provide written proof of having done so to ODC within 30 days of the last day of his suspension and/or upon undertaking a new representation; (iv) Respondent will take two CLE courses approved by ODC (on Ethics and Lawyer Trust Accounts and the Mandatory Course on the D.C.

Rules of Professional Conduct and D.C. Practice) and will provide proof of attendance at each CLE course within 10 days of completion, 4 waiving confidentiality regarding any consultations associated with the training advice and materials; (v) Respondent will notify ODC promptly of any disciplinary matters against himself and their dispositions; (vi) Within 30 days of the issuance of this opinion, Respondent will notify ODC in writing of all jurisdictions in which he has been licensed to practice and all tribunals before which he has appeared as legal counsel; and (vii) Respondent will not need to show fitness upon any application for reinstatement, provided that he has successfully completed probation and the agreed-upon conditions.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, we direct respondent's attention to D.C.

Bar R. XI, § 14(g), which requires the filing of an affidavit with this court for purposes of reinstatement in accordance with D.C. Bar R. XI, § 16, and Bd. Pro. Resp. R. 9.9. So ordered. 1 We understand the parties to contemplate that if respondent does not comply with the conditions of his probation, then ODC may seek to revoke his probation, and, if he is found to have violated his probation, then this court should impose the stayed 60-day suspension with a fitness requirement.