

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS

In re John S. Lopatto, III

No. 25-BG-1129 · No. 25-BG-1129 · Decided January 8, 2026

SUMMARY

The District of Columbia Court of Appeals ordered that John S. Lopatto, III, be disbarred by consent under D.C. Bar Rule XI, § 12(a). The court also granted the Board on Professional Responsibility’s motion to file related disciplinary documents under seal and directed compliance with requirements applicable to disbarred attorneys.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	District of Columbia Court of Appeals
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Easterly, Associate Judge; Deahl, Associate Judge; Thompson, Senior Judge
JURISDICTION	District of Columbia Court of Appeals
DECIDED	January 8, 2026
DOCKET	25-BG-1129
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Attorney disciplinary proceeding in which respondent consented to disbarment and the Board on Professional Responsibility submitted a report and recommendation.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published disciplinary order; limited precedential significance because it primarily applies consent-disbarment procedures to the respondent.

TOPICS

appellate procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

legal ethics attorney discipline appellate procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- 1. Whether the court should disbar respondent by consent based on his affidavit consenting to disbarment and the Board on Professional Responsibility's recommendation.

2. Whether the disciplinary materials lodged with the Board's consent motion should be filed under seal.

HOLDINGS

1. Respondent John S. Lopatto, III, was disbarred by consent.
2. The court granted the Board's motion to file the lodged disciplinary documents under seal.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

John S. Lopatto, III, was a member of the District of Columbia Bar and respondent in a disciplinary proceeding. He submitted an affidavit consenting to disbarment, and the Board on Professional Responsibility submitted its report and recommendation to the court.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Respondent John S. Lopatto, III, submitted an affidavit consenting to disbarment. The Board on Professional Responsibility recommended disbarment and moved to file under seal the disciplinary materials; the District of Columbia Court of Appeals granted the motion and ordered respondent disbarred by consent.

DISPOSITION

other