

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS

In re William Payne

No. 26-BG-0209 · No. 26-BG-0209 · Decided April 23, 2026

SUMMARY

The District of Columbia Court of Appeals granted a consent petition to indefinitely suspend William Payne from practicing law based on disability under D.C. Bar Rule XI, § 13. The court also ordered the petition filed under seal, held pending disciplinary matters in abeyance, and changed the case designation to reflect that the matter was no longer confidential.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	District of Columbia Court of Appeals
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Beckwith; McLeese; Howard
JURISDICTION	District of Columbia Court of Appeals
DECIDED	April 23, 2026
DOCKET	26-BG-0209
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The court considered Disciplinary Counsel's motion to file under seal a consent petition by the Board on Professional Responsibility seeking respondent's indefinite suspension from the practice of law based on disability.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published order
PARTIES	Disciplinary Counsel v. William Payne

TOPICS

- administrative law
- appellate procedure
- ada / disability

PRACTICE AREAS

- attorney discipline
- professional responsibility
- disability-based suspension

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether to permit the lodged consent petition to be filed under seal because it contains sensitive medical information.

2. Whether to grant the consent petition and indefinitely suspend respondent from the practice of law based on disability under D.C. Bar R. XI, § 13(c) and (e).
3. Whether pending investigations or other disciplinary matters against respondent should be held in abeyance.

HOLDINGS

1. The court granted leave to file the Board on Professional Responsibility's lodged consent petition under seal because it contains sensitive medical information.
2. The court granted the consent petition and indefinitely suspended William Payne from the practice of law in the District of Columbia, effective immediately, on the grounds of disability.
3. Any pending investigations or other disciplinary matters against respondent are held in abeyance.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“respondent William Payne is indefinitely suspended from the practice of law in the District of Columbia on the grounds of disability, effective immediately”

“any pending investigations or other disciplinary matters against respondent are held in abeyance”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The Board on Professional Responsibility lodged a consent petition seeking respondent William Payne's indefinite suspension from practicing law based on disability. The petition contained sensitive medical information, and the court ordered it filed under seal.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Disciplinary Counsel moved to file under seal the Board on Professional Responsibility's lodged consent petition. The court granted the sealing motion, granted the petition, indefinitely suspended respondent, and held pending investigations and disciplinary matters in abeyance.

DISPOSITION

other