

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

Matter of Lamon Darrell Bland

2026 NY Slip Op 01280 · No. 2024-06537 · Decided March 5, 2026

SUMMARY

The New York Appellate Division, First Department disbarred Lamon Darrell Bland for failing to respond to or appear for further investigatory or disciplinary proceedings within six months after his immediate suspension. The court ordered that his name be stricken from the roll of attorneys and directed him to comply with the rules governing disbarred attorneys.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division, First Department
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Per Curiam; Barbara R. Kapnick; Lizbeth González; Martin Shulman; John R. Higgitt; LlinÉt M. Rosado
JURISDICTION	Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division, First Department
DECIDED	March 5, 2026
DOCKET	2024-06537
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The Attorney Grievance Committee moved under 22 NYCRR 1240.9(b) to disbar respondent after he was immediately suspended under 22 NYCRR 1240.9(a)(1) and (3) and failed to respond to or appear for further investigatory or disciplinary proceedings within six months.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion
PARTIES	Attorney Grievance Committee for the First Judicial Department v. Lamon Darrell Bland

TOPICS

appellate procedure

civil procedure

remedies

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether an attorney immediately suspended under 22 NYCRR 1240.9(a)(1) and (3) must be disbarred under 22 NYCRR 1240.9(b) when six months have elapsed without the attorney responding to or appearing for further investigatory or disciplinary proceedings.
2. Whether Bland's communications with the Attorney Grievance Committee and his former landlord's possible withdrawal of the underlying complaint prevented disbarment.

HOLDINGS

1. When six months have elapsed after an immediate suspension under 22 NYCRR 1240.9(a)(1) and (3), and the respondent has neither responded to nor appeared for further investigatory or disciplinary proceedings, the respondent should be disbarred and the respondent's name stricken from the roll of attorneys.
2. A withdrawal of the complaint by the former landlord would not bind the Attorney Grievance Committee and would not eliminate Bland's obligation to cooperate or prevent disciplinary proceedings.

KEY QUOTATIONS

*“We find that, inasmuch as six months have elapsed since this Court's May 1, 2025 suspension order, and respondent has neither responded to nor appeared for further investigatory or disciplinary proceedings, respondent should be disbarred and his name stricken from the roll of attorneys in the State of New York, effective immediately” (*1)*

*“Any withdrawal of the complaint by his landlord would not be binding on the AGC.” (*1)*

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Bland, a New York attorney, was immediately suspended after failing to comply with the Attorney Grievance Committee's investigative demands, failing to appear for an examination under oath, and failing to produce subpoenaed documents. Although he contacted the Committee about reinstatement and indicated that he was not interested in contesting the suspension, he did not resume cooperation, provide a reasonable explanation for noncompliance, or file the required affidavit of compliance. More than six months after the suspension order, he still had not responded to or appeared for further investigatory or disciplinary proceedings.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The First Department immediately suspended Bland on May 1, 2025, for failing to comply with investigative demands, appear for an examination under oath, and produce documents required by subpoena. After six months elapsed without his responding to or appearing for further proceedings, the Attorney Grievance Committee moved for disbarment. The court granted the motion, disbarred Bland, and struck his name from the roll of attorneys effective immediately.

DISPOSITION

CASES CITED

- Matter of Bland, 238 AD3d 98 [1st Dept 2025]
- Matter of Jenkins, 240 AD3d 18 [1st Dept 2025]
- Matter of Naccarato, 233 AD3d 35 [1st Dept 2024]

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

Matter of Bland (2026 NY Slip Op 01280) Matter of Bland 2026 NY Slip Op 01280 Decided on March 05, 2026 Appellate Division, First Department Per Curiam Published by New York State Law Reporting Bureau pursuant to Judiciary Law § 431. This opinion is uncorrected and subject to revision before publication in the Official Reports. Decided and Entered: March 05, 2026 SUPREME COURT, APPELLATE DIVISION First Judicial Department Present — Hon. Barbara R. Kapnick Justice Presiding Lizbeth González Martin Shulman John R. Higgitt LlinÉt M. Rosado Justices.

Motion No. 2025-06069 Case No.2024-06537 In the Matter of Lamon Darrell Bland A suspended attorney: Attorney Grievance Committee for the First Judicial Department Petitioner Lamon Darrell Bland (OCA Atty. Reg. No. 4752184) Respondent. Motion No. 2025-06069|Case No. 2024-06537| [*1]In the Matter of Lamon Darrell Bland, A Suspended Attorney: Attorney Grievance Committee for the First Judicial Department, Petitioner, Lamon Darrell Bland (OCA Atty.

Reg. No. 4752184), Respondent. Disciplinary proceedings instituted by the Attorney Grievance Committee for the First Judicial Department. Respondent, Lamon Darrell Bland, was admitted to the Bar of the State of New York at a Term of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court for the First Judicial Department on September 15, 2009. Jorge Dopico, Chief Attorney, Attorney Grievance Committee, New York City (Gillian C. Gamberdell, of counsel), for petitioner.

Respondent, pro se. Per Curiam Respondent Lamon D. Bland was admitted to the practice of law in the State of New York by the First Judicial Department on September 15, 2009, under the name Lamon Darrell Bland. Respondent maintains a registered address in the First Judicial Department. By order entered May 1, 2025, pursuant to the Rules for Attorney Disciplinary Matters (22 NYCRR) § 1240.9(a)(1) and (3), this Court immediately suspended respondent from the practice of law for failure to comply with the Attorney Grievance Committee's (AGC) lawful investigative demands, failure to appear for an examination under oath, and failure to produce specified documents as directed by judicial subpoena (see Matter of Bland, 238 AD3d 98 [1st Dept 2025]).

Respondent's suspension was predicated on a complaint made by his former landlord who alleged that he failed to satisfy a judgment she obtained against him. On May 5, 2025, the AGC served respondent with notice of entry and a copy of this Court's suspension order. Respondent acknowledged receipt on the same day.

On May 20, 2025, respondent emailed the AGC to inquire about the appropriate steps needed regarding any legal services rendered prior to his suspension. Although respondent indicated that he was "not interested" in contesting his suspension, he thereafter called the AGC on September 16, 2025 seeking reinstatement. Between September 17 and 22, 2025, respondent exchanged emails with the AGC, wherein he maintained, inter alia, that he had "fully cooperated regarding the complaint which has nothing to do with the practice of law."

On October 3, 2025, respondent emailed his former landlord and offered to pay the judgment from an escrow account if she withdrew her complaint. Respondent thereafter emailed the AGC asking what steps were necessary for reinstatement if his landlord withdrew her complaint.

On October 22, 2025, the AGC informed respondent that he must seek reinstatement in accordance with 22 NYCRR 1240.16. Any withdrawal of the complaint by his landlord would not be binding on the AGC. The AGC repeatedly informed respondent that he could not be reinstated unless he cooperated with the AGC. Nonetheless, respondent has not contacted the AGC since October 22, 2025, nor has he made any effort to comply with its investigative demands, offered a reasonable explanation as to why he cannot do so, or filed the affidavit of compliance required by 22 NYCRR 1240.15(f).

By motion dated November 7, 2025, the AGC seeks an order, pursuant to 22 NYCRR 1240.9(b), disbaring respondent on the ground that he was immediately suspended pursuant to 22 NYCRR 1240.9(a)(1) and (3) and has neither responded to nor appeared for further investigatory or disciplinary proceedings within six months of the date of his suspension.

We find that, inasmuch as six months have elapsed since this Court's May 1, 2025 suspension order, and respondent has neither responded to nor appeared for further investigatory or disciplinary proceedings, respondent should be disbarred and his name stricken from the roll of attorneys in the State of New York, effective immediately (see *Matter of Jenkins*, 240 AD3d 18 [1st Dept 2025]; *Matter of Naccarato*, 233 AD3d 35 [1st Dept 2024]).

Accordingly, the AGC's motion should be granted, respondent disbarred, and his name stricken from the roll of attorneys and counselors-at-law in the State of New York, effective immediately. All concur. Wherefore, it is Ordered that the motion by the Attorney Grievance Committee for the First Judicial Department for an order pursuant to 22 NYCRR 1240.9(b), disbaring respondent, is granted, and respondent, Lamon Darrell Bland, is disbarred and his name stricken from the roll of attorneys and counselors-at-law in the State of New York, effective immediately, and until further

order of this Court; and It is further Ordered that, pursuant to Judiciary Law § 90, respondent, Lamon Darrell Bland, is commanded to desist and refrain from (1) the practice of law in any form, either as principal or agent, clerk or employee of another, (2) appearing as an attorney or counselor-at-law before any court, Judge, Justice, board, commission or other public authority, (3) giving to another an opinion as to the law or its application or any advice in relation thereto, and (4) holding himself out in any way as an attorney and counselor-at-law; and It is further Ordered that, respondent, Lamon Darrell Bland, shall comply with the rules governing the conduct of disbarred or suspended attorneys (see 22 NYCRR 1240.15), which are made part hereof; and It is further Ordered that if respondent, Lamon Darrell Bland, has been issued a secure pass by the Office of Court Administration, it shall be returned forthwith.

Entered: March 5, 2026