

MICHAEL JAY NELSON
(Suspension)

On August 2, 2018, the Idaho Supreme Court issued a Disciplinary Order suspending Nampa attorney Michael Jay Nelson from the practice of law for a period of one year. Before the disciplinary case began, Mr. Nelson's license was canceled in March 2018 for nonpayment of his license fees. The Disciplinary Order provided that if Mr. Nelson does not reinstate his license from canceled status within one year from the date his license was canceled, and the Idaho State Bar deems his license resigned under I.B.C.R. 305(e), then Mr. Nelson's suspension will end because his license will be resigned at that time. If his license is resigned, to be actively licensed again, he would have to apply to take and pass the Idaho bar exam. If Mr. Nelson does reinstate his license before it is deemed resigned under that rule, his license status will remain suspended until the period of suspension is completed and he will then be required to reinstate under the disciplinary rules.

In the disciplinary case, Mr. Nelson pled guilty to a felony DUI charge and was sentenced in November 2017. He did not respond to Bar Counsel, the Hearing Committee or the Idaho Supreme Court in the disciplinary matter. The Idaho Supreme Court found that Mr. Nelson violated Idaho Rules of Professional Conduct 8.4(b) [Commission of a criminal act that reflects adversely on a lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects] and 8.1(b) [Failure to respond to Bar Counsel in connection with a disciplinary matter], and Idaho Bar Commission Rules 505(b) [Conviction of a serious crime] and 505(e) [Failure to cooperate with or respond to requests from Bar Counsel]. The Disciplinary Order also ordered that Mr. Nelson reimburse the Idaho State Bar for costs in the amount of \$229.20.

The Idaho Supreme Court's Disciplinary Order concluded a disciplinary proceeding that was initiated with a Complaint filed on April 12, 2018. On June 6, 2018, a Hearing Committee of the Professional Conduct Board conducted a hearing on the Idaho State Bar's Motion to Deem Admissions for Failure to Answer and for Imposition of Sanction. Following that hearing, the Hearing Committee entered its Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Recommendation.

Inquiries about this matter may be directed to: Bar Counsel, Idaho State Bar, P.O. Box 895, Boise, Idaho 83701, (208) 334-4500.