

**LAUREN E. MCCONNELL**

(Resignation in Lieu of Disciplinary Proceedings)

On December 1, 2017, the Idaho Supreme Court entered an Order accepting the Resignation in Lieu of Disciplinary Proceedings of Boise attorney Lauren E. McConnell. The Idaho Supreme Court's Order followed a stipulated resolution of a disciplinary proceeding that related to the following conduct.

The Idaho Supreme Court found that Ms. McConnell violated a number of Idaho Rules of Professional Conduct related to eight client matters. With respect to two client matters, Ms. McConnell failed to promptly file pleadings and/or submit discovery responses, reasonably communicate with clients, and refund funds to the clients upon termination of the representation. The Idaho Supreme Court found that Ms. McConnell violated I.R.P.C. 1.2(a) [Failure to Abide by Client Objectives], I.R.P.C. 1.3 [Failure to Act with Reasonable Diligence and Promptness], I.R.P.C. 1.4 [Failure to Reasonably Communicate with Client], I.R.P.C. 1.16(d) [Failure to Protect Client Interests Upon Termination of Representation], and I.R.P.C. 5.1(a) [Failure to Make Reasonable Efforts to Ensure Lawyers in Firm Conformed to the I.R.P.C.] with respect to two clients.

With respect to one client matter, Ms. McConnell failed to timely submit discovery responses, promptly file a responsive Affidavit in a divorce proceeding, and reasonably respond to the client's requests for updates. The Idaho Supreme Court found that Ms. McConnell violated I.R.P.C. 1.2(a) [Failure to Abide by Client Objectives], I.R.P.C. 1.3 [Failure to Act with Reasonable Diligence and Promptness], I.R.P.C. 1.4 [Failure to Reasonably Communicate with Client], and I.R.P.C. 5.1(a) [Failure to Make Reasonable Efforts to Ensure Lawyers in Firm Conformed to the I.R.P.C.] with respect to that client.

With respect to one client matter, Ms. McConnell failed to promptly file a pleading in a custody modification case, inform the client about a pending motion filed by the opposing party, appear for the hearing on that motion, and reasonably respond to the client's requests for updates. The Idaho Supreme Court found that Ms. McConnell violated I.R.P.C. 1.2(a) [Failure to Abide by Client Objectives], I.R.P.C. 1.3 [Failure to Act with Reasonable Diligence and Promptness], I.R.P.C. 1.4 [Failure to Reasonably Communicate with Client], I.R.P.C. 1.16(a) [Lawyer Shall Withdraw If Lawyer's Physical or Mental Condition Materially Impairs the Representation], and I.R.P.C. 5.1(a) [Failure to Make Reasonable Efforts to Ensure Lawyers in Firm Conformed to the I.R.P.C.] with respect to that client.

With respect to four client matters, Ms. McConnell failed to respond to the clients' requests for refunds upon termination of the representation. The Idaho Supreme Court found that Ms. McConnell violated I.R.P.C. 1.15(d) [Failure to Promptly Deliver Funds a Client is Entitled to Receive] and I.R.P.C. 1.16(d) [Failure to Protect Client Interests Upon Termination of Representation] with respect to those four clients.

The Idaho Supreme Court accepted Ms. McConnell's Resignation of Lieu of Disciplinary Proceedings. By the terms of the Order, Ms. McConnell may not make application for admission to the Idaho State Bar sooner than five (5) years from the date of her resignation. If she does apply for admission, she will be required to comply with all bar admission requirements in Section II of the Idaho Bar Commission Rules and will have the burden of overcoming the rebuttable presumption of the "unfitness to practice law."

By the terms of the Idaho Supreme Court's Order, Ms. McConnell's name was stricken from the records of the Idaho Supreme Court and her right to practice law before the courts in Idaho was terminated.

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