

DENNIS J. SALAZ
(Resignation in Lieu of Disciplinary Proceedings)

On _____, the Idaho Supreme Court entered an Order accepting the resignation in lieu of disciplinary proceedings of Boise attorney Dennis J. Sallaz, effective ~~February~~ March 1, 2017. The Idaho Supreme Court's Order followed a stipulated resolution of a disciplinary proceeding that related to the following conduct.

While serving as counsel for a client, Mr. Sallaz drafted and executed a purchase agreement pursuant to which the client purchased Mr. Sallaz's interests in an Idaho limited liability company. That company purportedly held certain real estate, title to which was in dispute at the time Mr. Sallaz and his client executed the purchase agreement. Mr. Sallaz did not adequately explain his conflict of interest in the transaction to his client, obtain his client's written informed consent to the conflict of interest, or advise his client in writing of the desirability of seeking the advice of independent legal counsel on the transaction. Mr. Sallaz admitted that with respect to that business transaction, his conduct violated I.R.P.C. 1.7(a)(2) [Conflict of interest based on the lawyer's personal interests] and I.R.P.C. 1.8(a) [Conflict of interest in business transaction with client]. Additionally, Mr. Sallaz admitted that he ~~commingled~~ placed personal funds in his trust account, ~~belonging to clients and third persons with his own personal~~ which simultaneously held clients' funds, in violation of I.R.P.C. 1.15(a) [Failure to hold property of clients or third parties separate from lawyer's own property].

The Idaho Supreme Court accepted Mr. Sallaz's resignation in lieu of disciplinary proceedings effective February 1, 2017. By the terms of the Order, Mr. Sallaz may not make

application for admission to the Idaho State Bar sooner than five (5) years from the date of his resignation. If he does make such application for admission, he 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, Mr. Sallaz’s name was stricken from the records of the Idaho Supreme Court and his right to practice law before the courts in Idaho was terminated on ~~February~~March 1, 2017.

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