

VIRGINIA A. BOND
(Public Reprimand)

The Professional Conduct Board has issued a Public Reprimand to Payette attorney Virginia A. Bond, based on professional misconduct. The Professional Conduct Board's Order followed a stipulated resolution of a reciprocal proceeding in Idaho based on an Oregon disciplinary proceeding. On November 28, 2022, the Oregon Supreme Court entered an Order Approving Stipulation for Discipline and imposed a Public Reprimand based on Ms. Bond's violation of Idaho Rules of Professional Conduct 8.4(d) [Engaging in conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice].

The Public Reprimand relates to the following circumstances. While Ms. Bond was a sole practitioner in private practice, she represented a wife in an Idaho divorce case. After the wife filed a divorce petition, the court issued a joint preliminary injunction ("injunction") prohibiting both parties from transferring any property without the consent of the other party or a prior court order. Two weeks after that injunction was issued, Ms. Bond assisted her client in violating the injunction by typing a quitclaim deed transferring the husband's joint interest in the marital residence to her client. The client signed that quitclaim deed as the husband's attorney-in-fact using a general power of attorney ("POA"). Ms. Bond notarized her client's signature on the quitclaim deed after discussing the injunction and cautioning her client that there could be negative consequences in court. Ms. Bond's client recorded the quitclaim deed.

The POA used by Ms. Bond's client was no longer valid when the quitclaim deed was executed because Idaho Code § 15-12-110(2)(c) terminates spousal powers-of-attorney upon the filing of a divorce petition. Ms. Bond was not aware of that statute when she notarized her client's signature on the quitclaim deed. Ms. Bond did not

disclose the quitclaim deed to the opposing party until 13 days before the trial date and one day after the close of discovery, resulting in a continuance of the trial. Upon learning that the POA was ineffective, Ms. Bond informed her client, who then prepared and signed a new quitclaim deed transferring the marital residence to herself and her husband as joint owners.

The Public Reprimand does not limit Ms. Bond's eligibility to practice law.

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