

JACOB D. DEATON

(Resignation in Lieu of Disciplinary Proceedings)

On July 10, 2017, the Idaho Supreme Court entered an Order accepting the Resignation in Lieu of Disciplinary Proceedings of Boise attorney Jacob D. Deaton. 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 Mr. Deaton violated a number of Idaho Rules of Professional Conduct related to eight different client matters which constituted the eight counts of the Complaint. With respect to three client matters, Mr. Deaton failed to appear or inform his clients about court hearings in their criminal cases. When those clients were unable to contact Mr. Deaton about their cases, other attorneys concluded their cases. The Idaho Supreme Court found that Mr. Deaton violated I.R.P.C. 1.2(a) [Failure to Abide by Client Objectives]; 1.3 [Failure to Act with Reasonable Diligence and Promptness]; and 1.4 [Failure to Reasonably Communicate with Client] with respect to those three clients.

With respect to two client matters, Mr. Deaton failed to appear at the time originally scheduled for his clients' sentencing hearings and did not advise those clients of the scheduled hearing dates. However, Mr. Deaton and his clients appeared at the rescheduled sentencing hearings. The Idaho Supreme Court found that Mr. Deaton violated I.R.P.C. 1.3 [Failure to Act with Reasonable Diligence and Promptness], and 1.4 [Failure to Reasonably Communicate with Client] with respect to those two clients.

With respect to two civil client matters, Mr. Deaton represented personal injury clients and failed to advise his clients in a timely manner of settlement offers and counteroffers. The

Idaho Supreme Court found that Mr. Deaton violated I.R.P.C. 1.4 [Failure to Reasonably Communicate with Client] with respect to those two clients.

With respect to the final civil matter, Mr. Deaton failed to complete the client's case and did not reasonably communicate the status of his work to the client. That client hired substitute counsel who completed the case. The Idaho Supreme Court found that Mr. Deaton violated I.R.P.C. 1.4 [Failure to Reasonably Communicate with Client] with respect to that client.

The Idaho Supreme Court accepted Mr. Deaton's Resignation in Lieu of Disciplinary Proceedings. By the terms of the Order, Mr. Deaton 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. Deaton'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.

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