

PAUL R. WINWARD
(Public Reprimand)

On March 22, 2017, the Professional Conduct Board of the Idaho State Bar entered an Order issuing a Public Reprimand to Meridian attorney Paul R. Winward, based on professional misconduct. Consistent with the terms of that Order, Mr. Winward also voluntarily resigned his Idaho State Bar license.

The Professional Conduct Board's Order followed a stipulated resolution of an Idaho State Bar disciplinary proceeding in which Mr. Winward admitted that his conduct violated Idaho Rules of Professional Conduct 7.1 [Communications Concerning a Lawyer's Services] and 7.3(a) [Solicitation of Clients].

This disciplinary case related to Mr. Winward's communications with sales representatives of a Boise homebuilder and his communications with two homeowners who had purchased homes from that homebuilder. Mr. Winward falsely indicated to the sales representatives that he was interested in buying a home from the homebuilder. He also falsely indicated to homeowners that he represented another homeowner regarding the homebuilder's allegedly defective foundations. Although not Respondent's intent, the homeowners understood from their communications with Respondent that their foundations may be defective and that Respondent was offering to provide legal services to pursue a lawsuit on behalf of homeowners regarding the allegedly defective foundations. Bar Counsel considered as mitigation the fact that Mr. Winward sought the advice of counsel regarding his communications with the homeowners.

The public reprimand does not limit Mr. Winward's eligibility to practice law. However, as part of the stipulated resolution of the disciplinary case, Mr. Winward agreed to voluntarily resign his Idaho State Bar license pursuant to Idaho Bar Commission Rule 305(e), as he had initially prepared to do prior to the filing of the formal charge case to pursue other business interests. Respondent further agreed that he may not apply for readmission to the Idaho State Bar sooner than October 1, 2017. Under Section II of the Idaho Bar Commission Rules, Mr. Winward would be required to take and successfully pass the Idaho bar examination for admission.

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