

DISBARMENT OF A NON-DELAWARE LAWYER: In the Matter of John Du Wors, Esquire, Supreme Court No. 17, 2025
Effective Date: July 25, 2025

On July 25, 2025, the Delaware Supreme Court (the “Court”) ordered the disbarment of non-Delaware lawyer John Du Wors (“Du Wors”) for professional misconduct related to his admission *pro hac vice* in Superior Court. Du Wors was admitted to practice law in Washington in 2003, in California in 2004, and in New York in 2012. The violations in Delaware arose from Du Wors’ April 2023 *pro hac vice* certification to the Superior Court representing that he was not the subject of pending disciplinary proceedings in another jurisdiction notwithstanding the fact that such proceedings were pending in Washington, his failure to correct that false certification, and his participation in mediation of the Superior Court case while suspended from practice in Washington. The Court also ordered Du Wors to pay the costs of the disciplinary proceeding.

In June 2024, ODC filed and served a Petition for Discipline (the “Petition”) against Du Wors alleging his conduct violated Delaware Lawyers’ Rules of Professional Conduct (the “Rules”) 3.3(a)(1)(two counts), 3.4(c), 5.5(c)(3), 8.4(c)(two counts), and 8.4(d)(two counts).

Rule 3.3(a)(1) provides that a lawyer shall not knowingly “make a false statement of fact or law to a tribunal or fail to correct a false statement of material fact or law previously made to the tribunal by the lawyer.”

Rule 3.4(c) provides that a lawyer shall not “knowingly disobey an obligation under the rules of a tribunal, except for an open refusal based on an assertion that no valid obligation exists.”

Rule 5.5(c)(3) provides that a lawyer admitted in another jurisdiction and not suspended from practice in any jurisdiction may provide temporary legal services in a Delaware mediation if the services are related to the lawyer’s admission to practice elsewhere.

Rule 8.4(c) provides that it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to “engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.”

Rule 8.4(d) provides that it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to “engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice.”

Du Wors did not answer the Petition. Therefore, pursuant to Delaware Lawyers' Rule of Disciplinary Procedure 9(d)(2), all of the allegations and charges in the Petition were deemed admitted, leaving the appropriate disciplinary sanction as the sole remaining issue for the Board on Professional Responsibility (the "Board").

A one-day sanctions hearing was held before a Panel of the Board in October 2024. The Panel issued its Report in January 2025. Du Wors filed objections with the Court, after which the Court ordered Du Wors' disbarment in Delaware. He is unconditionally excluded from the admission to or the exercise of any privilege to practice law in Delaware.

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