

ROBERT A. BARTLETT
(Withheld Suspension, Suspension and Probation)

On May 22, 2023, the Idaho Supreme Court issued a Disciplinary Order suspending Riverside, California attorney Robert A. Bartlett from the practice of law for three years with all three years withheld, 90 days actual suspension deemed served, and placing him on probation with conditions for three years retroactive to January 27, 2023. The Idaho Supreme Court's Order followed a stipulated resolution of an Idaho State Bar reciprocal disciplinary proceeding.

Mr. Bartlett was admitted to practice law in California in 1998 and Idaho in 2006 and has been on inactive status in Idaho since 2017. On July 6, 2022, the State Bar of California Court issued a Decision finding that Mr. Bartlett had successfully completed the Court's diversion program, Alternative Discipline Program, and recommended that the California Supreme Court impose a three-year stayed suspension, 90 days of actual suspension, and three years of probation with conditions. On September 1, 2022, Mr. Bartlett voluntarily went on inactive enrollment and served his 90-day actual suspension. On December 28, 2022, the California Supreme Court issued an En Banc Order imposing the sanction recommended by the State Bar Court and granting Mr. Bartlett credit for the 90-day actual suspension for the period he went on inactive enrollment. The effective date of Mr. Bartlett's three-year period of probation was January 27, 2023. In the California disciplinary case, Mr. Bartlett stipulated to violations of former California Rules of Professional Conduct 4-100(A), 4-100(B)(3) and 4-100(B)(4) and Business and Professions Code Section 6106, with respect to two separate counts in the disciplinary complaint. Those California rules correspond to Idaho Rules of Professional Conduct 1.15(a), 1.15(d) and 8.4(c).

The California disciplinary case related to Mr. Bartlett's representation of clients in two personal injury matters, his receipt of settlement funds and not maintaining those funds in his trust account, not promptly disbursing the funds to his clients to which they were entitled and converting portions of those funds for his personal use and benefit. By the conclusion of the California disciplinary proceeding Mr. Bartlett had fully reimbursed his clients with interest. Mr. Bartlett was admitted to the Alternative Disciplinary Program based on a finding of a nexus between his mental health and substance abuse issues and his professional misconduct stemming from the 2011 death of his seven-year-old son during a family hunting trip.

The Idaho Supreme Court ordered that during Mr. Bartlett's three-year period of probation he comply with the identical conditions in Idaho as imposed on him in California. The Supreme Court further ordered that should Mr. Bartlett relocate to Idaho during his probation and seek to transfer his licensing status from inactive to active, additional conditions specific to Idaho will be imposed.

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