



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH

**STATEWIDE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE**

Frances Mickelson-Dera, *Assistant Bar Counsel*

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Attorney Mark Dubois  
Chief Disciplinary Counsel  
100 Washington Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Attorney Leonard Paoletta  
19 Old Sport Hill Road  
Easton, CT 06612

RE: Grievance Complaint #06-0546, Fairfield Grievance Panel v. Paoletta

Dear Chief Disciplinary Counsel and Respondent:

Pursuant to Practice Book §2-82(b), the undersigned, duly-appointed reviewing committee of the Statewide Grievance Committee, has reviewed the revised *Conditional Admission and Agreement as to Discipline* filed December 1, 2006 and submitted for approval in the above referenced matter. After careful consideration of the revised *Conditional Admission and Agreement as to Discipline*, the supplemental affidavit of the Respondent submitted pursuant to Practice Book §2-82(c) and the entire record, and after conducting a hearing pursuant to Practice Book §2-82(b) on October 3, 2006, the undersigned hereby APPROVE the revised *Conditional Admission and Agreement as to Discipline*, a copy of which is attached hereto. Accordingly, the disposition agreed to by the Chief Disciplinary Counsel and the Respondent in the above referenced matter and set forth in the revised *Conditional Admission and Agreement as to Discipline*, is hereby made an order of this reviewing committee. The Respondent is reprimanded.

So ordered.

cc: Fairfield Judicial District Grievance Panel  
Attorney David P. Atkins  
Attorney George Ferrio

(B)  
asc

DECISION DATE: 12/22/06

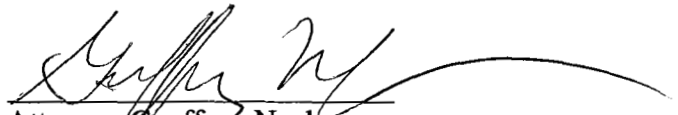
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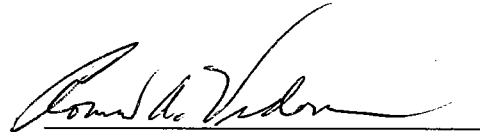
  
Attorney Shari Bornstein

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Attorney Geoffrey Naab

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Dr. Romeo Vidone

STATEWIDE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

NO. 06-0546

FAIRFIELD JUDICIAL DISTRICT GRIEVANCE PANEL,

Complainant,

vs.

LEONARD S. PAOLETTA,

Respondent.

NOVEMBER 27, 2006

DEC 1 - 2006

**REVISED CONDITIONAL ADMISSION AND AGREEMENT AS TO DISCIPLINE**

Pursuant to Practice Book §2-82, the undersigned Respondent and Office of Disciplinary Counsel hereby submit this revised agreement in lieu of their initial "Conditional Admission And Agreement As To Discipline" dated October 3, 2006 and agree as follows:

1. This matter was commenced by a Grievance Complaint filed by the Fairfield Judicial District Grievance Panel, dated June 7, 2006.
2. By a written notice dated July 25, 2006, the New London Judicial District Grievance Panel found probable cause that Respondent may have engaged in professional misconduct in connection with his clients' funds account.
3. In connection with this Conditional Admission, Respondent has tendered an Affidavit, attached hereto, in accordance with Practice Book §2-82, in which he admits certain facts alleged in the Complaint.
4. Respondent acknowledges that in the course of his practice as an attorney, which ended in late 1998 when he was appointed to be a State of Connecticut Workers' Compensation Commissioner, he occasionally maintained certain of his own funds in his clients' fund bank account at the same time the account held funds of certain clients. At no time, however, were clients' funds diverted or otherwise misused.

At no time did Respondent fail or refuse to account to a client for funds held for the client.

5. Respondent has been admitted to practice since 1959, but has not practiced since his appointment as a Workers' Compensation Commissioner in 1998 and he does not intend or expect to engage in law practice in the future. He has never had discipline imposed against him.

6. Disciplinary Counsel has agreed to recommend to the Grievance Committee that, as authorized by Practice Book §2-82(b), the matter be resolved with the imposition of a Committee reprimand together with the condition that Respondent provide Disciplinary Counsel, on or before December 15, 2006, a written accounting of Respondent's law office checking account for the year 1998.

7. A copy of this Revised Conditional Admission and a copy of Respondent's accompanying "Supplemental Affidavit" have both been sent to Complainant Fairfield Judicial District Grievance Committee.

WHEREFORE, the revised agreed-upon form of discipline is submitted to the Statewide Grievance Committee for its approval in accordance with Practice Book §2-82 (b).

Date: November 27, 2006

Office of Disciplinary Counsel

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Mark A. Dubois  
Chief Disciplinary Counsel

Respondent Leonard S. Paoletta

Date: November 27, 2006

By: \_\_\_\_\_

David P. Atkins  
His Attorney

**SUPPLEMENTAL AFFIDAVIT OF LEONARD S. PAOLETTA**

STATE OF CONNECTICUT        )  
  )        ss: Bridgeport        November 22, 2006  
COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD        )

I, Leonard S. Paoletta, having first been duly sworn, make the follow Affidavit pursuant to Practice Book §2-82, and state as follows:

1. I am over the age of eighteen, understand the obligations of an oath, and have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein.

2. The Revised Conditional Admission And Agreement As To Discipline attached hereto, and made a part hereof, is voluntarily submitted.

3. I hereby consent to the form of disposition, including the accounting, set forth in the attached Revised Conditional Admission And Agreement.

4. I am aware that I have a right to a full evidentiary hearing on this matter and I waive that right by entering into the attached Revised Conditional Admission And Agreement.

5. I have been neither subject to coercion nor duress and I am fully aware of the implications of this Supplemental Affidavit and the Revised Conditional Admission And Agreement.

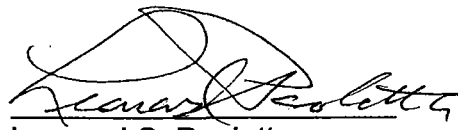
6. I am aware of the current proceeding regarding my alleged violation of the Connecticut Rules of Professional Conduct in connection with the bank account into which I had deposited certain clients' funds during the time I was in private practice.

7. I acknowledged that, on occasion, in the course of my practice as an

attorney, which ended in late 1998 when I was appointed to be a State of Connecticut Workers' Compensation Commissioner, I maintained certain of my own funds in my clients' funds bank account at the same time I was holding funds of certain clients in violation of Rule 1.15(a) of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

8. At no time did I divert, or otherwise misuse any clients' funds. I have arranged to have an accountant review my records to ensure that the funds in question have been subject to proper accounting treatment and that all taxes, if any, that may have been due, have or will be fully paid.

9. I have been admitted to practice since 1959, but have not practiced since my appointment as Workers' Compensation Commissioner in December, 1998. I do not intend or expect to return to private practice in the future. I have never had discipline imposed against me.

  
Leonard S. Paoletta

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2006.

  
Commissioner of the Superior Court