D-136 September Term 2019 084496

In the Matter of

Thomas J. Whitney,

FILED

:

ORDER

An Attorney At Law

(Attorney No. 041572004)

Cheathe & Bake

DEC 0 1 2020

The Disciplinary Review Board having filed with the Court its decision in DRB 19-296, concluding on the record certified to the Board pursuant to Rule 1:20-4(f)(default by respondent) that Thomas J. Whitney of Casper, Wyoming, who was admitted to the bar of this State in 2004, should be suspended from the practice of law for a period of two years for unethical conduct that includes multiple violations of RPC 1.1(a)(gross neglect), RPC 1.3 (lack of diligence), RPC 1.4(b)(failure to communicate with client), RPC 1.15(a)(failure to safeguard client property), RPC 1.16(d)(on termination of representation, failure to surrender papers and property to which the client is entitled and to refund unearned fee), RPC 3.2(failure to expedite litigation), RPC disciplinary to cooperate with authorities). and RPC 8.1(b)(failure 8.4(c)(conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation);

And Thomas J. Whitney having failed to appear on the Order directing him to show cause why he should not be disbarred or otherwise disciplined;

And the Court having held in <u>In re Kivler</u>, 193 N.J. 332 (2008) that the unexcused failure to comply with a disciplinary Order to Show Cause may be a basis for enhanced discipline;

And good cause appearing;

It is ORDERED that **Thomas J. Whitney** is disbarred from the practice of law, effective immediately, and that his name be stricken from the roll of attorneys; and it is further

ORDERED that **Thomas J. Whitney** be and hereby is permanently restrained and enjoined from practicing law; and it is further

ORDERED that **Thomas J. Whitney** comply with <u>Rule</u> 1:20-20 dealing with disbarred attorneys; and it is further

ORDERED that respondent reimburse the Disciplinary Oversight

Committee for appropriate administrative costs and actual expenses incurred in the prosecution of this matter, as provided in <u>Rule</u> 1:20-17.

WITNESS, the Honorable Stuart Rabner, Chief Justice, at Trenton, this 30th day of November, 2020.

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT

Heather Saker