Supreme Court of New Jersey
Disciplinary Review Board
Docket No. 20-037
District Docket No. XIV-2018-0535E

:

In the Matter of

Charles Canning Daley, Jr.

An Attorney at Law

Decision

Argued: July 16, 2020

Decided: February 3, 2021

Ashley Kolata-Guzik, Assistant Deputy Ethics Counsel, appeared on behalf of the Office of Attorney Ethics.

Joseph P. La Sala appeared on behalf of respondent.

To the Honorable Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

This matter was before us on a motion for final discipline filed by the Office of Attorney Ethics (OAE), pursuant to \underline{R} . 1:20-13(c)(2), following respondent's guilty plea and conviction, in the Superior Court of New Jersey, to unlawful possession of a handgun, a second-degree crime, contrary to

N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5(b)(1). This offense constitutes a violation of <u>RPC</u> 8.4(b) (criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects).

For the reasons set forth below, we determine to grant the motion for final discipline, deny respondent's motion to remand for a limited evidentiary hearing, and impose a six-month suspension, with a condition.

Respondent earned admission to the New Jersey and Pennsylvania bars in 1985. At the relevant times, he maintained an office for the practice of law in Hamilton Township, New Jersey. Respondent has no disciplinary history in New Jersey.

On September 17, 2018, respondent possessed a concealed, .22 caliber handgun loaded with hollow point bullets as he entered the Ocean County Courthouse, where he was scheduled to appear before a New Jersey Superior Court Judge. The sheriff's officers discovered the handgun when respondent's backpack passed through the metal detector. Respondent did not possess a valid permit to carry a concealed weapon and, when queried by the courthouse sheriffs, represented that he had placed the handgun in his backpack to show it to someone, but then forgot the handgun was in the bag.

On June 17, 2019, respondent waived indictment and pleaded guilty to one count of second-degree unlawful possession of a handgun, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5(b)(1). That statute provides that "[a]ny person who knowingly has in his possession any handgun including any antique handgun, without first having obtained a permit to carry the same . . . is guilty of a crime of the second degree" (emphasis added). Respondent, thus, allocuted, under oath, that he had knowingly possessed the handgun while entering the courthouse. The maximum sentence for that offense is ten years in state prison. During his guilty plea, respondent testified that he had purchased the handgun in 1982, while working as a member of the District Attorney's Office in Philadelphia and, at that time, he was authorized to carry a firearm.

In connection with his guilty plea, respondent was admitted to the Pre-Trial Intervention (PTI) program for thirty-six months, with conditions including weekly psychotherapy sessions, continued treatment with his psychiatrist, and periodic risk evaluations performed by the psychotherapist and treating psychiatrist. Dr. Gianni Pirelli, Ph.D., a psychologist, recommended these conditions as a result of a court-ordered psychological examination. In addition, respondent is precluded from possessing a firearm, destructive device, or any other dangerous weapon,

now or in the future. If respondent successfully completes the PTI program, the charges and the plea will be dismissed.

On September 19, 2018, two days after his arrest, respondent reported his criminal charges to the OAE.

In respect of these disciplinary proceedings, respondent claimed that he took the handgun from a locked safe because he planned to go to a shooting range with a friend, but, when his plans changed, he forgot to return the firearm to the safe. He maintained that he forgot that the firearm remained in the backpack and used the same backpack to bring his files to the courthouse. Respondent participated in a polygraph examination, the results of which indicated that he believed his assertion that he did not intend to bring the firearm into the courthouse.

The OAE argued that respondent should be suspended for six months, with the condition that he submit psychological proof of his fitness to practice prior to any reinstatement. The OAE relied primarily on In re Wallace, 153 N.J. 31 (1998), to support its recommendation. In Wallace, the attorney arrived with a loaded handgun at the home of his former girlfriend approximately ten months after their six-year relationship had ended, and warned her that he had intended to kill both her and himself, but upon seeing her, decided he could not go through with his plan, removed the

bullets from the gun, and left the apartment. Although the OAE sought a six-month suspension, we imposed a three-month suspension, finding that the attorney placed his former girlfriend in fear for her life and that his conduct was serious, but was mitigated by the attorney's mental health issues, loss of employment, forfeiture of his public office, and the passage of almost five years since the event.

The OAE further argued that, in aggravation, respondent's handgun was loaded with unlawfully possessed hollow point bullets, and that his conduct touched upon the practice of law, because he was at the courthouse for a hearing. The OAE remarked that the crime at issue in Wallace, unlawful possession of a handgun, a third-degree offense in 1993, subsequently was enhanced, in 2013, to a second-degree crime, reflecting the public sentiment that a harsher punishment is necessary to protect the public from firearm offenses. In mitigation, the OAE recognized that respondent reported the charges to the OAE and has no ethics history in thirty-five years at the bar.

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¹ Respondent's charge, guilty plea, and conviction encompassed only the violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5(b)(1), unlawful possession of a handgun, not possession of hollow point bullets.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On July 23, 2020, in response to our request to review the psychological evaluation performed by Dr. Pirelli as part of respondent's admission into the PTI program, respondent, through counsel, filed a motion to supplement the record with (1) an updated psychiatric report from Dr. Martin Bier, M.D., his treating physician since September 2018; and (2) a psychiatric evaluation from Dr. Pirelli, issued in connection with his underlying criminal case, provided that a confidentiality order was issued to comply with the Honorable Wendel E. Daniels, P.J.Cr.Div.'s January 23, 2019 order sealing the materials. By letter dated July 27, 2020, the OAE stated that it did not object to a sealed order permitting the release of the psychiatric evaluation from Dr. Pirelli, or an updated report from Dr. Bier, provided that such submissions were not used to assert a defense to respondent's knowledge that he possessed a firearm.

On July 28, 2020, we granted respondent's motion; directed respondent to seek the appropriate relief from the Superior Court of New Jersey, Ocean County, providing us and the OAE with the psychiatric evaluation performed by Dr. Pirelli; noted that we would promptly issue a protective order preserving the confidentiality of both the psychiatric evaluation performed by Dr. Pirelli and the updated psychiatric report of Dr. Bier; and reminded the

parties that we could not consider any evidence in mitigation inconsistent with the essential elements of the criminal matter. R. 1:20-13(c)(2).

On August 6, 2020, respondent, through counsel, filed a motion under seal with the Superior Court of New Jersey, Ocean County, Law Division, Criminal Part, to unseal the psychiatric evaluation performed by Dr. Pirelli. On August 24, 2020, Judge Daniels signed an order temporarily unsealing the evaluation to be submitted to us and the OAE for consideration in the instant matter and, at the conclusion of this matter, resealing it at the written request of respondent's counsel. Accordingly, respondent provided us with the two reports.

We have reviewed the two aforementioned reports and they do not alter our understanding of the facts in this matter.

RESPONDENT'S MOTION TO REMAND FOR A LIMITED EVIDENTIARY HEARING

As noted above, respondent argued that the appropriate measure of discipline is in the range of admonition to censure, but asserted that, if we impose greater discipline, good cause exists to remand the matter for a limited evidentiary hearing. Respondent filed the motion to remand the matter for the purpose of further developing the circumstances surrounding the incident, as well as his character. In turn, the OAE argued that respondent was using the

motion to remand as an attempt to demonstrate that his possession was something other than "knowing," by introducing evidence to establish that he has good character and that his misconduct was an unintentional, out-of-character action. The OAE contended that respondent cannot use the present matter to mount a collateral attack on his guilty plea, wherein he admitted that he had knowingly possessed the firearm. Although the OAE opposed respondent's motion, it did not object to expansion of the record to include respondent's proposed exhibits attached to his brief in support of his motion, to be considered in mitigation.

 \underline{R} . 1:20-13(c)(2) provides, in pertinent part, that in a motion for final discipline

[t]he sole issue to be determined shall be the extent of final discipline to be imposed. The Board and Court may consider any relevant evidence in mitigation that is not inconsistent with the essential elements of the criminal matter for which the attorney was convicted or has admitted guilt as determined by the statute defining the criminal matter. No witnesses shall be allowed and no oral testimony shall be taken; however, both the Board and the Court may consider written materials otherwise allowed by this rule that are submitted to it. Either the Board or the Court, on the showing of good cause therefore or on its own motion, may remand a case to a trier of fact for a limited evidentiary hearing and report consistent with this subsection. (emphasis added)

Thus, on a showing of good cause, we may determine to remand the case for a limited evidentiary hearing.

In <u>In re Gallo</u>, 178 N.J. 115, 118 (2003), the OAE's evidence of the attorney's misconduct was limited to his statements at a criminal plea hearing during which he admitted to committing four acts of sexual contact. The Court determined that Gallo's "scant admissions" at the hearing did not provide a full context for evaluating the gravity of the misconduct, especially in light of the detailed allegations of the victims. The Court concluded that an evidentiary hearing was required "because the victim's allegations raise unanswered questions that bear on respondent's professional conduct." <u>Id.</u> at 122. The Court remanded the matter to us to develop a record that would address the victims' claims and the attorney's answers to those claims. <u>Id.</u> at 124.

Here, respondent's motion to remand focused on evidence of the circumstances surrounding the misconduct to establish that his possession of the handgun was unknowing and a mistake. However, respondent entered a guilty plea to unlawful possession of a handgun, for which knowing possession is an essential element (N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5(b)(1)). In this instance, there exist no "unanswered questions" which may have an effect on the evaluation of respondent's misconduct. Therefore, unlike Gallo, respondent has failed to

establish the "good cause" necessary for a limited evidentiary hearing. See In re Gallo, 178 N.J. at 122; R. 1:20-13(c)(2).

Accordingly, we determine to deny respondent's motion to remand, but accept into the record the exhibits attached to his brief in opposition to the motion for final discipline.

RESPONDENT'S OBJECTION TO THE MOTION FOR FINAL DISCIPLINE

Respondent objected to the OAE's recommendation of a term of suspension and argued that the appropriate range of discipline for his misconduct is between an admonition and a censure. Despite his sworn guilty plea, respondent maintained that the incident underlying the charges "can only be described as an inadvertent mistake." Respondent claimed that he normally kept his handgun in a locked safe in his home, but, on the morning of the hearing, he had taken the wrong backpack to the courthouse and forgotten about the handgun, which he had placed inside after using it at a shooting range with a friend.

Respondent argued that <u>Wallace</u> is distinguishable, because the attorney in that case had the intent to use the handgun and, as a result, put the victim in great fear for her life. Here, respondent made no threats, did not use the handgun, and simply forgot to remove it from his bag.

In mitigation, respondent asserted that the misconduct was an isolated incident; that he has a good reputation and character; that he promptly reported the charges to the OAE; that he acknowledged responsibility and expressed remorse for the misconduct; that he has no ethics discipline in more than thirty years at the bar; and that he submitted twenty-five character reference letters in his behalf, which were originally submitted in support of his application for PTI. The letters were from clients, police officers, family members, neighbors, his pastor, friends, and attorneys, including co-workers and adversaries, attesting to his upstanding character as an attorney, and in his personal life. These references have known respondent for long periods of time, some for more than thirty years. The recurrent theme throughout these letters is that respondent is trustworthy, moral, and fair; has a "stellar reputation;" is a "credit to the profession;" and exercises the "highest ethical and professional standards." Many of the references stated that the present incident is inconsistent with respondent's character, and, therefore, must have been a mistake. Also, respondent has performed service to the community as a volunteer with his children's local recreational basketball program.

Further, respondent contended that his misconduct was an isolated incident, no one was harmed, and his action was unrelated to his law practice.² In addition, respondent has been a Certified Civil Trial Attorney since 1993. Respondent emphasized that, once he completes the PTI program, the charge will be dismissed and the guilty plea will have no effect, pursuant to the PTI statute. As stated, respondent also submitted a polygraph examination report which confirmed the truthful nature of his statement that he did not know that the handgun was contained in the backpack prior to its discovery. Finally, respondent argued that the appropriate range of discipline is between an admonition and a censure.

* * *

Following a review of the record, we determine to grant the OAE's motion for final discipline. In New Jersey, <u>R.</u> 1:20-13(c) governs final discipline proceedings. Under that <u>Rule</u>, a criminal conviction is conclusive evidence of guilt in a disciplinary proceeding. <u>R.</u> 1:20-13(c)(1); <u>In re Magid</u>, 139 N.J. 449, 451 (1995); In re Principato, 139 N.J. 456, 460 (1995).

² Although respondent stated that this was an isolated incident, he informed the sheriff's officer that he had entered other courthouses with the same bag, and the gun went undetected. Also, respondent argued that the conduct was unrelated to his law practice, but, by his own admission, he was present at the courthouse for a scheduled court appearance before a judge.

Respondent's guilty plea to one count of second-degree unlawful possession of a handgun, contrary to N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5(b)(1), establishes a violation of <u>RPC</u> 8.4(b).

Pursuant to <u>RPC</u> 8.4(b), it is professional misconduct for an attorney to "commit a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer." Hence, the sole issue is the extent of discipline to be imposed. <u>R.</u> 1:20-13(c)(2); <u>In re Magid</u>, 139 N.J. at 451-52; and <u>In re Principato</u>, 139 N.J. at 460.

In determining the appropriate measure of discipline, we must consider the interests of the public, the bar, and the respondent. "The primary purpose of discipline is not to punish the attorney but to preserve the confidence of the public in the bar." <u>Ibid.</u> (citations omitted). Fashioning the appropriate penalty involves a consideration of many factors, including the "nature and severity of the crime, whether the crime is related to the practice of law, and any mitigating factors such as respondent's reputation, his prior trustworthy conduct, and general good conduct." <u>In re Lunetta</u>, 118 N.J. 443, 445-46 (1989).

In sum, we find that respondent violated <u>RPC</u> 8.4(b). The only remaining issue is the appropriate quantum of discipline to be imposed for respondent's misconduct.

The OAE urged the imposition of a six-month suspension, with the condition that, prior to reinstatement, respondent submit psychological proof of his fitness to practice. Respondent argued that the appropriate range of discipline is between an admonition and a censure

The Court has noted that, although it does not conduct "an independent examination of the underlying facts to ascertain guilt," it will "consider them relevant to the nature and extent of discipline to be imposed." In re Magid, 139 N.J. at 452. In motions for final discipline it is acceptable to "examine the totality of the circumstances" including the "details of the offense, the background of respondent, and the pre-sentence report" before "reaching a decision as to [the] sanction to be imposed." In re Spina, 121 N.J. 378, 389 (1990). The "appropriate decision" should provide "due consideration to the interests of the attorney involved and to the protection of the public." Ibid.

Respondent's criminal conduct in this case presents us with a case of first impression. The Court has never disciplined a New Jersey attorney for the unlawful possession of a firearm under such circumstances. The following cases provide some guidance regarding the appropriate quantum of discipline to be imposed.

When conduct involving criminal acts is not of the utmost seriousness, admonitions and reprimands have been imposed. See, e.g., In the Matter of

Michael E. Wilbert, DRB 08-308 (February 11, 2009) (admonition for attorney who possessed eight rounds of hollow point bullets, a violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-3(f), a fourth degree crime, and a violation of RPC 8.4(b); the attorney attempted to transport hollow point bullets from New Jersey to Florida via airplane; the attorney entered into a PTI program; in mitigation, at check-in, the attorney had declared the bullets to the airline's agent, there was no evidence that he intended to conceal the possession of the bullets, and he had an unblemished disciplinary record in his thirty-seven years at the bar); In the Matter of Shauna Marie Fuggi, DRB 11-399 (February 17, 2012) (admonition for attorney who brought some of her estranged husband's belongings outside on the driveway, after he left the marital home for the evening to be with his long-term girlfriend, set the belongings on fire, and sent him a text message informing him that his possessions were aflame; the attorney was charged with third-degree arson, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:17-1(b), and successfully completed a PTI program; in mitigation, her action was impulsive due to the context of the marital difficulties; she unsuccessfully attempted to extinguish the fire; only personal property was damaged; she admitted the misconduct; and she cooperated with law enforcement); In re Murphy, 188 N.J. 584 (2006) (reprimand for attorney who twice presented his brother's driver's license to police in order to avoid prosecution for driving under the influence charges, in violation of <u>RPC</u> 8.4(b), <u>RPC</u> 8.4(c), and <u>RPC</u> 8.4(d); in addition, the attorney failed to cooperate with the OAE's investigation of the matter (<u>RPC</u> 8.1(b)); and <u>In re Thakker</u>, 177 N.J. 228 (2003) (reprimand for an attorney who pleaded guilty to harassment, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:33-4(a), a petty disorderly persons offense; the attorney harassed a former client, telephoning her repeatedly, after she told him to stop; additionally, the attorney was abusive to the police officer who responded in the matter; despite that police officer's warning, the attorney continued to call the former client and the police officer).

For more serious crimes, censures have been imposed. See, e.g., In re Milita, 217 N.J. 19 (2014) (censure for attorney who pleaded guilty to one count of hindering apprehension by providing false information to a law enforcement officer, a disorderly persons offense (N.J.S.A. 2C:29-3b(4)), and two counts of harassment, petty disorderly persons offenses (N.J.S.A. 2C:33-4(c)); the attorney became angry when two teenagers in a car tailgated him; he made an obscene hand gesture, pulled over, brandished a knife, and then followed the teens for several miles, still brandishing the knife, before being apprehended by police; the attorney first denied that he had a knife, but later admitted to its possession, claiming that it had been given to him by a mechanic to fix his car) and In re Osei, 185 N.J. 249 (2005) (attorney was

censured for causing \$72,000 worth of damage to his own house, which was the subject of a foreclosure; aggravating factors included the deliberate nature of the attorney's actions and the extent of the damage to the property, which demonstrated that his actions had occurred over a significant period of time; no prior discipline).

Terms of suspension generally have been imposed when the attorney commits or threatens acts of violence. See, e.g., In re Gonzalez, 229 N.J. 170 (2017) (three-month suspension for attorney who violated RPC 8.4(b) and RPC 8.4(d) and was indicted on one count of third-degree possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, N.J.S.A. 2C:39-4(d), and one count of fourth-degree criminal mischief, N.J.S.A. 2C:17-3(a)(1), when he initiated a "road rage" incident and, after the victim stopped her vehicle at an intersection, the attorney exited his vehicle, retrieved a golf club, swung the club at the victim's vehicle, and threw it at her car as she attempted to drive away, at which time the club struck her vehicle multiple times, causing damage; the attorney left the scene without contacting the police; attorney successfully completed the PTI program with conditions of restitution for the damage to the victim's car and completion of an anger management course; the victim stated that she was unable to sleep for fear of another attack; prior reprimand and admonition); In re Marcinkiewicz, 240 N.J. 207 (2019) (one-year suspension, with conditions,

for attorney who pleaded guilty to one count of aggravated assault and one count of endangering the welfare of a child, third-degree crimes; during an alcoholic blackout, the attorney inflicted severe injuries on her eight-week-old daughter); and In re Guzzino, 165 N.J. 24 (2000) (two-year suspension for attorney convicted of second-degree manslaughter and driving while intoxicated).

Arguably, respondent's crime of unlawful possession of a handgun is less serious than the attorneys' crimes in Gonzalez, Marcinkiewicz, and Guzzino, which involved actual, not potential, violence. Moreover, Wallace, on which the OAE relied, is distinguishable from the present case, because Wallace involved a near murder-suicide where the attorney intended to use the handgun to kill a victim, and his actions resulted in a victim who feared for her life. Unlike the attorney in Wallace, respondent's misconduct was a unique instance, because, although it constituted a second-degree crime, it was non-violent, did not involve a victim, and no one was harmed. Respondent's misconduct, however, created the potential for violence.

To craft the appropriate discipline in this case, we considered both mitigating and aggravating factors. In aggravation, respondent brought the handgun to a courthouse where he was scheduled to appear before a judge, and it was loaded with illegal, hollow point bullets. In mitigation, respondent's

misconduct was an isolated incident; he reported his criminal charges to the OAE two days after his arrest; he has no disciplinary history in thirty-five years at the bar; he expressed remorse and took responsibility for his misconduct; and he submitted twenty-five persuasive letters from attorneys, friends, and family members attesting to his good character and reputation.

We accord significant weight to the fact that respondent brought the loaded handgun into a courthouse where he was scheduled to appear before a judge, a scenario which created an egregious potential for danger to the public, judiciary employees, and other judges. Although respondent stressed that his misconduct was an inadvertent mistake and an isolated incident, his position does not comport with the knowing element of the crime to which he pleaded guilty, under oath, nor the fact that he represented to the sheriff's officer that he had entered other courthouses, undetected, with the same loaded handgun. Therefore, we find respondent's explanation for his misconduct to be neither reasonable nor compelling.

On balance, given the extreme recklessness of respondent's misconduct and the totality of the circumstances, we conclude that the aggravation outweighs the mitigation, and determine that a six-month suspension is the quantum of discipline necessary to protect the public and preserve confidence in the bar.

We further require that, within thirty days of the Court's Order in this matter, respondent provide proof of fitness to practice law, as attested to by a mental health professional approved by the OAE. This condition mirrors the conditions imposed in connection with respondent's PTI.

One additional point in this case warrants further mention. It is extremely troubling that, despite his entry of a guilty plea, under oath, in Superior Court, respondent has sought to aggressively refute his guilty plea, in the context of the disciplinary charges against him, by claiming that the knowing criminal charge to which he pleaded guilty was merely an "inadvertent mistake."

Very recently, during the oral argument for the order to show cause in <u>In</u> re <u>Thompson</u>, 240 N.J. 263 (2020), the Court expressed serious concern regarding a similar attempt to argue in the alternative following a criminal conviction. Specifically, during the Court's questioning at an order to show cause, and facing our recommendation that he be disbarred for his public corruption, the attorney began to argue that he had entered into a guilty plea to fourth-degree falsifying records for reasons other than the truth of that plea. The Court interjected, cautioning the attorney that, not only was his argument inappropriate pursuant to the <u>Rule</u> governing motions for final discipline, but that he was treading on dangerous ground by potentially admitting that he had

lied, under oath, to secure a favorable plea agreement in the criminal proceedings against him.

Here, respondent has gone further than to begin such a line of argument. Through counsel, he has repeatedly made the argument in connection with formal disciplinary proceedings pending against him. His alternative version of the truth, that he truly did not know that the handgun was in his bag, and that it was a mistake, is inapposite to the knowing element of the crime to which he pleaded guilty under oath. This inconsistency begs the question as to whether respondent pleaded guilty to the charge, which included the knowing element, in order to secure the result of PTI, which is a much more desirable result than the uncertain outcome of a jury trial, where respondent could have been sentenced to a maximum of ten years in state prison. Therefore, we observe that respondent may have perjured himself when he pleaded guilty, under oath, to the knowing element of the charge. Simply put, if respondent lied under oath to obtain a favorable outcome in the criminal setting, we cannot sanction such misconduct.

Chair Clark, and Members Boyer, Hoberman, and Singer voted to impose a censure with the same condition and filed a separate dissent.

* * *

Vice-Chair Gallipoli and Member Zmirich wrote separately, as follows:

We write to concur with the majority decision and to respond to the minority dissent.

We submit the Court should not be unmindful that respondent was charged with and pled guilty to one count of the second-degree offense of unlawful possession of a handgun (loaded with hollow point bullets) as he entered the Ocean County Courthouse. "Knowing" possession is an essential element of the offense to which respondent pled guilty and allocuted, apparently as part of the plea agreement with the Prosecutor that allowed for respondent's admission into the PTI program.

The dissent argues that respondent's statements in this ethics proceeding, that he "didn't know the gun was in his backpack when he attempted to enter the courthouse," do not contradict that facts to which he allocuted nor do they disavow any element of the crime of knowing possession to which he pled. We respectfully disagree. The dissent further argues that respondent's position has always been consistent. Again, we beg to disagree. When questioned by the courthouse sheriffs, respondent represented that he had placed the handgun in his backpack to show it to someone but then forgot it was in his backpack. In the disciplinary proceedings, respondent claimed that he took the handgun

from a locked safe because he planned to go to a shooting range with a friend but those plans subsequently changed.

Additionally, the dissent argues the majority "stretches" to justify its recommendation, taking issue with the majority's opinion that respondent's conduct "created the potential for violence." The dissent criticizes the majority for "leaving the reader to imagine what 'potential for violence' exists and by whom it would be committed, especially when the gun was in a backpack with legal files and respondent himself didn't know it was there." In point of fact, if the respondent is taken at his word that he was unaware of the handgun's presence in his backpack, then it takes very little imagination to infer the "possibility" of an accidental discharge, or a third-person finding the backpack unattended or unguarded by respondent and then the "possibility" of a catastrophe taking place.

Finally, the dissent cites the Court to its decision in <u>In re Spina</u>, 121 N.J. 378, 389, (1990), urging the Court to "examine the totality of the circumstances," including the details of the offense and the background of the respondent. We echo that invitation. No carry permit. Loaded handgun. Hollow-point bullets. Conditions imposed with entry into PTI, including weekly psychotherapy sessions; continued treatment with his psychiatrist; periodic risk evaluations performed by the psychotherapist and treating

psychiatrist; all recommended after a court-ordered psychological examination.

* * *

We further determine to require respondent to reimburse the Disciplinary Oversight Committee for administrative costs and actual expenses incurred in the prosecution of this matter, as provided in <u>R.</u> 1:20-17.

Disciplinary Review Board Maurice J. Gallipoli, Vice-Chair

By: /s/ Timothy M. Ellis
Timothy M. Ellis
Acting Chief Counsel

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD VOTING RECORD

In the Matter of Charles Canning Daley, Jr. Docket No. DRB 20-037

Argued: July 16, 2020

Decided: February 3, 2021

Disposition: Six-Month Suspension

Members	Six-Month Suspension	Censure	Recused	Did Not Participate
Clark		X		
Boyer		X		
Gallipoli	X			
Hoberman		X		
Joseph	X			
Petrou	X			
Rivera	X			
Singer		X		
Zmirich	X			
Total:	5	4	0	0

/s/ Timothy M. Ellis

Timothy M. Ellis Acting Chief Counsel