

**SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY  
D-45 September Term 2024  
090086**

**In the Matter of** :  
**William C. Kelly** :  
**An Attorney at Law** :  
**(Attorney No. 034022003)** :

**O R D E R**

The Disciplinary Review Board having filed with the Court its decision in DRB 24-140, recommending on the basis of a disciplinary stipulation that **William C. Kelly of Garden City, New York**, who was admitted to the bar of this State in 2004, should be suspended for a period of three years for violating RPC 1.15(a) and the principles of In re Siegel, 133 N.J. 162 (1993) (knowingly misappropriating law firm funds), and RPC 8.4(c) (engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation); and

The Court having determined from its review of the matter that a two-year suspension is the appropriate quantum of discipline for respondent's unethical conduct, see In re Sigman, 220 N.J. 141 (2014) (finding that knowing misappropriation of law firm funds may warrant disbarment, but

identifying a series of mitigating factors that would provide for a lesser sanction than disbarment);

And good cause appearing;

It is ORDERED that **William C. Kelly** is suspended for a period of two years, and until further order of the Court, effective March 23, 2025; and it is further

ORDERED that respondent comply with Rule 1:20-20 dealing with suspended attorneys; and it is further

ORDERED that pursuant to Rule 1:20-20(c), respondent's failure to comply with the Affidavit of Compliance requirement of Rule 1:20-20(b)(15) may (1) preclude the Disciplinary Review Board from considering respondent's petition for reinstatement for a period of up to six months from the date respondent files proof of compliance; (2) be found to constitute a violation of RPC 8.1(b) and RPC 8.4(d); and (3) provide a basis for an action for contempt pursuant to Rule 1:10-2; and it is further

ORDERED that the entire record of this matter be made a permanent part of respondent's file as an attorney at law of this State; 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 Rule 1:20-17.

WITNESS, the Honorable Stuart Rabner, Chief Justice, at Trenton, this 20th day of February, 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Heather J. Baker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "H" and "B".

**CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT**