

**SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY
D-34 September Term 2025
091417**

In the Matter of :
Andrew G. Bitar :
An Attorney At Law :
(Attorney No. 172152016) :

O R D E R

The Disciplinary Review Board having filed with the Court its decision in DRB 25-150, recommending on the record certified to the Board pursuant to Rule 1:20-4(f) (default by respondent) that **Andrew G. Bitar**, formerly of **Englewood Cliffs**, who was admitted to the bar of this State in 2016, and who has been temporarily suspended from the practice of law since July 2, 2024, should be censured for violating RPC 1.1(a) (engaging in gross neglect) (two instances), RPC 1.3 (lacking diligence) (two instances), RPC 1.4(b) (failing to communicate with a client) (two instances), RPC 1.5(b) (failing to set forth, in writing, the basis or rate of the legal fee), RPC 1.16(d) (failing to protect client's interests upon termination of the representation and failing to refund the unearned portion of the fee) (two instances), RPC 8.1(b) failing to cooperate with disciplinary authorities) (three instances), and RPC 8.4(d) (engaging in conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice); and

Andrew G. Bitar having failed to appear on the order directing respondent to show cause why respondent should not be disbarred or otherwise disciplined; and

The Court having found that this matter warrants a higher quantum of discipline than censure based on respondent's egregious conduct – namely, using pressure and threats to induce clients to pay him additional fees and then not performing services or responding to those clients – as well as his failure to engage in the disciplinary process; and

The Court having determined that a one-year suspension from the practice of law is the appropriate quantum of discipline;

And good cause appearing;

It is ORDERED that **Andrew G. Bitar** is suspended from the practice of law for one year, and until further order of the Court, effective immediately; and it is further

ORDERED that respondent shall reimburse the New Jersey Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection for all claims paid to date on behalf of respondent, within sixty days; and it is further

ORDERED that respondent shall remain temporarily suspended pursuant to the orders filed on July 2, 2024 and June 11, 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 27th day of April, 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather J. Baker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT