

**SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY
D-53 September Term 2025
091649**

In the Matter of :
Chadwick L. Hooker :
An Attorney at Law :
(Attorney No. 159232015) :

O R D E R

The Disciplinary Review Board having filed with the Court its consolidated decision in DRB 25-177 and DRB 25-178, recommending on the record certified to the Board pursuant to Rule 1:20-4(f) (default by respondent) the disbarment of **Chadwick L. Hooker**, formerly of **Mount Laurel**, who was admitted to the bar of this State in 2015, and who has been temporarily suspended from the practice of law since March 21, 2024, for violating: RPC 1.15(a), RPC 8.4(c), and the principles of In re Wilson, 81 N.J. 451 (1985) (engaging in the knowing misappropriation of client funds); RPC 1.15(a), RPC 8.4(c), and the principles of In re Wilson, 81 N.J. 451 (1985) and In re Hollendonner, 102 N.J. 21 (1985) (engaging in the knowing misappropriation of escrow funds) (two instances); RPC, 1.1(a) (engaging in gross neglect); RPC 1.3 (lacking diligence) (three instances); RPC 1.4(b) (failing to

communicate with a client) (two instances); RPC 1.15(b) (failing to promptly notify a client of receipt of funds in which the client has an interest and failing to promptly deliver funds to a client); RPC 1.15(d) (failing to comply with the recordkeeping requirements of Rule 1:21-6); RPC 1.16(a)(1) (undertaking or failing to withdraw from a representation if it will result in a violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct or other law) (eight instances); RPC 1.16(d) (failing to refund an unearned legal fee upon termination of the representation); RPC 3.3(a)(5) (failing to disclose to a tribunal a material fact knowing that the omission is reasonably certain to mislead the tribunal) (seven instances); RPC 3.4(c) (knowingly disobeying an obligation under the rules of a tribunal) (two instances); RPC 5.5(a)(1) (knowingly practicing law while suspended) (nine instances); RPC 8.1(a) (knowingly making a false statement of material fact to disciplinary authorities); RPC 8.1(b) (failing to cooperate with disciplinary authorities) (five instances); RPC 8.4(b) (committing a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer) (eight instances); RPC 8.4(c) (engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation) (ten instances); and RPC 8.4(d) (engaging in conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice) (two instances); and

The Disciplinary Review Board having further recommended that respondent be required, by a date certain, to (1) demonstrate to the Office of Attorney Ethics that Benthall was reimbursed \$3,335 in entitled settlement proceeds and that respondent disgorged all legal fees collected following respondent's suspension, including in the Bolden, Confidential Client 1, Confidential Client 2, Cousins, and Kemp matters, and (2) disclose to the Office of Attorney Ethics all legal fees respondent has received while suspended; and

Chadwick L. Hooker having failed to appear on the order directing respondent to show cause why respondent should not be disbarred or otherwise disciplined;

And good cause appearing;

It is ORDERED that **Chadwick L. Hooker** is hereby disbarred, effective immediately, and that respondent's name be stricken from the roll of attorneys; and it is further

ORDERED that **Chadwick L. Hooker** be and hereby is restrained and enjoined from practicing law; and it is further

ORDERED that respondent shall, within sixty days, reimburse Benthall \$3,335 and disgorge all legal fees collected from any clients during the period

of respondent's suspension; and it is further

ORDERED that **Chadwick L. Hooker** comply with Rule 1:20-20 dealing with disbarred attorneys; and it is further

ORDERED that all funds, if any, currently existing or hereinafter deposited in any New Jersey financial institution maintained by **Chadwick L. Hooker** pursuant to Rule 1:21-6 be restrained from disbursement and shall be transferred by the financial institution to the Clerk of the Superior Court, who is directed to deposit the funds in the Superior Court Trust Fund pending further order of the Court; 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.



CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT