

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

At a Regular Term of the Supreme Court of Appeals continued and held at Charleston, Kanawha County, on the 25th of June, 2003, the following order was made and entered:

Lawyer Disciplinary Board, Complainant

vs.) No. 30727

James F. Sigwart, a member of The West Virginia State Bar, Respondent

OFFICE OF LAWYER DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

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On a former day, to-wit, May 1, 2003, came the Hearing Panel Subcommittee of the Lawyer Disciplinary Board, by Michael Chaney, its chairperson, pursuant to Rule 3.10 of the Rules of Lawyer Disciplinary Procedure, and presented to the Court its written recommended disposition in this matter, stipulated to by the parties, recommending that: (1) the respondent be reprimanded; (2) the respondent be supervised in his current employment for six months by a licensed West Virginia attorney chosen by respondent with the approval of the Office of Disciplinary Counsel; (3) if, at any time in the future, respondent plans to return to private practice he shall contact the Office of Disciplinary Counsel within thirty (30) days of engaging in the same and make arrangements to be supervised for twelve additional months by a licensed West Virginia attorney chosen by respondent with the approval of the Office of Disciplinary Counsel; (4) the respondent undergo comprehensive counseling/therapy to effectively deal with his personal issues and his issues with alcohol abuse and provide evidence of the same to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel; (5) the respondent shall fully cooperate in the future with ethical complaints and/or requests for information from the Office of Disciplinary Counsel; and

(6) the respondent shall be ordered to reimburse the Lawyer Disciplinary Board the costs of these proceedings pursuant to Rule 3.15 of the Rules of Lawyer Disciplinary Procedure in the amount of \$1,364.93.

Upon consideration whereof, the Court is of opinion to and doth hereby adopt the stipulated written recommended disposition of the Hearing Panel Subcommittee of the Lawyer Disciplinary Board. It is therefore ordered that: (1) the respondent, James F. Sigwart, a member of The West Virginia State Bar, be, and hereby is reprimanded for violating Rules 1.3, 1.4(a), 1.4(b), 1.16(a)(2) and 8.1(b) of the Rules of Professional Conduct; (2) the respondent be supervised in his current employment for six months by a licensed West Virginia attorney chosen by respondent with the approval of the Office of Disciplinary Counsel; (3) if, at any time in the future, respondent plans to return to private practice he shall contact the Office of Disciplinary Counsel within thirty (30) days of engaging in the same and make arrangements to be supervised for twelve additional months by a licensed West Virginia attorney chosen by respondent with the approval of the Office of Disciplinary Counsel; (4) the respondent undergo comprehensive counseling/therapy to effectively deal with his personal issues and his issues with alcohol abuse and provide evidence of the same to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel; (5) the respondent fully cooperate in the future with ethical complains and/or requests for information from the Office of Disciplinary Counsel; and (6) the respondent shall be ordered to reimburse the Lawyer Disciplinary Board the costs of these proceedings pursuant to Rule 3.15 of the Rules of Lawyer Disciplinary Procedure in the amount of \$1,364.93.

Service of an attested copy of this order shall constitute sufficient notice of its contents.

A True Copy

Attest: Ray J. Perry II.
Clerk, Supreme Court of Appeals