

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

At Supreme Court of Appeals, continued and held at Charleston, Kanawha County, on November 15, 2023, the following order was made and entered **in vacation**:

Lawyer Disciplinary Board,
Petitioner

vs.) No. 22-0510

James W. Keenan, a member of
The West Virginia State Bar,
Respondent

ORDER

On September 21, 2023, the Hearing Panel Subcommittee of the Lawyer Disciplinary Board, by its Chair Nicole A. Cofer, in accordance with Rule 3.10 of the Rules of Lawyer Disciplinary Procedure, filed its written recommended disposition in this matter, recommending that:

- (1) Respondent's law license be suspended for a period of six (6) months;
- (2) Respondent be required to apply for reinstatement pursuant to Rule 3.32 of the Rules of Lawyer Disciplinary Procedure;
- (3) Prior to reinstatement, Respondent complete three (3) hours of continuing legal education in ethics, specifically in the area of awareness and education in unwanted advances and/or sexual harassment/misconduct, in addition to such ethics hours as he is otherwise required to complete to maintain an active license; and
- (4) Respondent pay the costs of this disciplinary proceeding pursuant to Rule 3.15 of the Rules of Lawyer Disciplinary Procedure.

On September 28, 2023, the Office of Lawyer Disciplinary Counsel, by Kristin P. Halkias, Lawyer Disciplinary Counsel, filed its consent to the recommendation. The respondent did not file a consent or an objection to the recommendation.

Upon consideration and review on November 14, 2023, the Court is of the opinion to and does concur with and approve the recommended disposition of the Hearing Panel Subcommittee of the Lawyer Disciplinary Board. It is ORDERED that:

- (1) The license to practice law in the State of West Virginia of the Respondent, James W. Keenan, is suspended for a period of six (6) months, effective immediately;
- (2) After the six-month suspension, a petition for reinstatement in accordance with Rule 3.32 of the Rules of Lawyer Disciplinary Procedure may be filed;
- (3) Prior to reinstatement, Respondent must complete an additional three (3) hours of continuing legal education in ethics, specifically in the area of awareness and education in unwanted advances and/or sexual harassment/misconduct, which may be completed via electronic pre-recorded presentation, in addition to the ethics hours he is otherwise required to complete; and
- (4) Respondent shall pay the costs of this disciplinary proceeding pursuant to Rule 3.15 of the Rules of Lawyer Disciplinary Procedure.

Service of a copy of this order upon counsel for the respondent, the Office of Lawyer Disciplinary Counsel, and the West Virginia State Bar, constitutes sufficient notice of the contents.

A True Copy

Attest: /s/ Edythe Nash Gaiser
Clerk of Court

