

State of New York
Supreme Court, Appellate Division
Third Judicial Department

Decided and Entered: July 21, 2022

PM-137-22

In the Matter of ATTORNEYS
IN VIOLATION OF JUDICIARY
LAW § 468-a.

ATTORNEY GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
FOR THE THIRD JUDICIAL
DEPARTMENT,

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER
ON MOTION

Appellant;

BARBARA L. PRENDERGAST,
Respondent.

(Attorney Registration No. 1939891)

Calendar Date: May 9, 2022

Before: Garry, P.J., Lynch, Clark, Pritzker and
Reynolds Fitzgerald, JJ.

Monica A. Duffy, Attorney Grievance Committee for the
Third Judicial Department, Albany, for Attorney Grievance
Committee for the Third Judicial Department.

Barbara L. Prendergast, Lexington, North Carolina,
respondent pro se.

Per Curiam.

Respondent was admitted to practice by this Court in 1984 and lists a North Carolina business address with the Office of Court Administration. Respondent was suspended from the practice of law in New York by May 2019 order of this Court for conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice arising

from her noncompliance with the statutory attorney registration requirements from 2014 onward (Matter of Attorneys in Violation of Judiciary Law § 468, 172 AD3d 1706, 1748 [2019]; see Judiciary Law § 468-a [5]; Rules of Professional Conduct [22 NYCRR 1200.0] rule 8.4 [d]; Rules of the Chief Admin Cts [22 NYCRR] § 118.1). She cured her registration delinquency in November 2021 and has remained current to date. Respondent now moves, by application marked returnable on May 9, 2022, for her reinstatement. The Attorney Grievance Committee for the Third Judicial Department (hereinafter AGC) advises that it defers to the Court's discretion regarding respondent's application.¹

Along with certain procedural requirements, all attorneys seeking reinstatement must demonstrate, by clear and convincing evidence, compliance with the substantive test requiring that "(1) he or she has complied with the order of suspension and the Rules of this Court, (2) he or she has the requisite character and fitness for the practice of law, and (3) it would be in the public's interest to reinstate the attorney to practice in New York" (Matter of Attorneys in Violation of Judiciary Law § 468-a [Nenninger], 180 AD3d 1317, 1317-1318 [2020]). Given the duration of her suspension, respondent has appropriately submitted a duly-sworn form affidavit as is provided in appendix C to the Rules for Attorney Disciplinary Matters (22 NYCRR) part 1240 (see Rules for Attorney Disciplinary Matters [22 NYCRR] § 1240.16 [b]). She has also provided proof of her passage of the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (see Rules for Attorney Disciplinary Matters [22 NYCRR] § 1240.16 [b]). Although respondent concededly failed to file the required affidavit of compliance following the order of suspension (see Rules for Attorney Disciplinary Matters [22 NYCRR] § 1240.15 [f]; part 1240, appendix C, ¶ 21), we find that the attestations included in her appendix C affidavit have sufficiently cured this defect (see Matter of Attorneys in Violation of Judiciary Law § 468-a [Lawrence], 193 AD3d 1318, 1319 [2021]).

¹ Finding no open claims, the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection advises that it does not oppose respondent's reinstatement application.

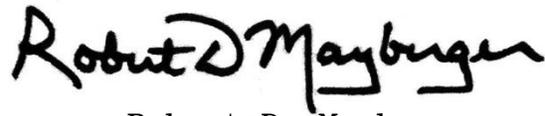
As for the balance of respondent's application, we find that her submission is sufficient to establish by clear and convincing evidence that she has satisfied the above-referenced substantive requirements. Respondent has adequately demonstrated her compliance with the order of suspension. As to her character and fitness, respondent's application materials raise no cause for concern, inasmuch as, among other things, she attests that she has not been the subject of any adverse disciplinary action or governmental investigation since her suspension (see Rules for Attorney Disciplinary Matters [22 NYCRR] part 1240, appendix C, ¶¶ 14, 30, 31). We additionally conclude that respondent's reinstatement would be in the public interest. Giving due consideration to the fact that the nature of respondent's professional misconduct does not raise any concerns regarding harm to a client, as well as her otherwise spotless disciplinary history, we also find that no detriment would inure to the public from respondent's reinstatement (see Matter of Attorneys in Violation of Judiciary Law § 468-a [Giordano], 186 AD3d 1827, 1829 [2020]; Matter of Attorneys in Violation of Judiciary Law §468-a [Serbinowski], 164 AD3d 1049, 1051 [2018]). We accordingly grant respondent's motion and reinstate her to the practice of law in New York, effective immediately.

Garry, P.J., Lynch, Clark, Pritzker and Reynolds
Fitzgerald, J.J., concur.

ORDERED that respondent's motion is granted; and it is further

ORDERED that respondent is reinstated as an attorney and counselor-at-law in the State of New York, effective immediately.

ENTER:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert D. Mayberger". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Robert D. Mayberger
Clerk of the Court