

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE DIRECTOR OF THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the Matter of)
)
Rebecca C. Stein,)
)
Respondent)
_____)

Proceeding No. D2025-23

FINAL ORDER

The Acting Deputy General Counsel for Enrollment and Discipline and the Acting Director of the Office of Enrollment and Discipline (“OED Director”) for the United States Patent and Trademark Office (“USPTO” or “Office”) and Ms. Rebecca C. Stein (“Respondent”), have submitted a Proposed Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (“USPTO Director”) for approval.

The Agreement, which resolves all disciplinary action by the USPTO arising from the Joint Stipulated Facts set forth below, is hereby approved. This Final Order sets forth the parties’ stipulated facts, legal conclusions, and sanctions.

Jurisdiction

1. At all times relevant hereto, Respondent was an attorney admitted to practice in the State of Pennsylvania, and authorized to practice before the USPTO in patent and trademark matters. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 500(b); 37 C.F.R. § 11.14(a).
2. At all times relevant hereto, Respondent was a registered patent practitioner, and subject to the USPTO Rules of Professional Conduct, 37 C.F.R. § 11.101 *et seq.*
3. The USPTO Director has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §§ 2(b)(2)(D) and 32 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 11.19, 11.20, and 11.26

Joint Stipulated Facts

4. At all times relevant hereto, Respondent has been registered to practice in patent matters before the USPTO as an attorney and subject to the USPTO Rules of Professional Conduct. Respondent’s USPTO registration number is 74,649.
5. In May 2018, Respondent was elected as Treasurer for the Fort Pitt Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Fort Pitt Block House (“the Organizations”). In her role as Treasurer, Respondent had sole control over the Organizations’ bank accounts, investment accounts, and financial matters.

6. In May 2022, Respondent was elected Regent of the Organizations, and, although a new Treasurer was elected, she retained access to the Organizations' finances until October 2022. Respondent also did not add the newly-elected Treasurer as a signatory on the Organizations' bank accounts until January 2023.

7. After being informed by a financial advisor that the Organizations' spending was going to deplete their finances by the end of 2023, former Regent Susan Matlack investigated the situation. Ms. Matlack found that Respondent had written checks from the Organizations' accounts payable to Respondent.

8. The Allegheny County District Attorneys' Office in Pennsylvania initiated an investigation into the situation, during which they discovered that, between 2019 and 2023, Respondent issued approximately 101 checks to herself from the Organizations' accounts totaling approximately \$315,332.21. Respondent also made payments using the Organizations' funds to numerous personal credit card accounts over that period of time. Respondent had not sought approval from the Organizations to make any of these transactions.

9. Only \$36,947.96 of the purchases made by the Respondent during the relevant period were found to be legitimate and for the benefit of the Organizations.

10. Respondent was arrested and charged with Receiving Stolen Property (18 Pa. C.S.A. 3825(a)), Theft by Unlawful Taking (18 Pa. C.S.A. 3925(a)) and Misapplication of Entrusted Property and Property of Government Financial Institutions (18 Pa. C.S.A. 4133(a) and (b)).

11. On February 22, 2024, Respondent pled guilty to one count of Misappropriation of Entrusted Property and Property of Government or Financial Institutions, in violation of 18 Pa. C.S.A. 4133(a) and (b), in front of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County.

12. This violation is a Misdemeanor of the 2nd Degree, punishable by imprisonment of up to two (2) years and a maximum fine of \$5,000.

13. Following this plea, Respondent was placed on criminal probation for two years. Conditions of her probation included continued mental health treatment and compliance with all Allegheny County General Rules of Probation and Parole.

14. Given these facts, the Pennsylvania Office of Disciplinary Counsel petitioned the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to suspend Respondent from the practice of law, alleging her conduct violated the Pennsylvania Rules of Professional Conduct. In particular, Respondent was alleged to have violated:

- a. Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4(b), wherein it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to commit a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer in other respects; and

b. Pa.R.D.E. 203(b)(1), wherein conviction of a crime as defined in Pa.R.D.E. 214(h) shall be grounds for discipline, and where a guilty plea is a conviction under Pa.R.D.E. 203(b)(1).

15. Respondent entered into a Joint Petition for Temporary Suspension pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 214(d)(5) on March 27, 2024, resulting in the entry of an Order of Temporary Suspension on April 5, 2024.

16. By Order dated April 14, 2025, in *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Rebecca Catherine Stein*, N. 3041 Disciplinary Docket No. 3, No. 39 DB 2024, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania suspended Respondent from the practice of law for three (3) years, retroactive to May 5, 2024, in that jurisdiction with Respondent's consent. The attached Exhibit A is a true and accurate copy a Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent under Rule 215(d) Pa. R.D.E. and the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania's April 14, 2025 order.

17. On April 14, 2025, Respondent provided OED with a copy of the April 14, 2025 order.

18. According to the "Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent under Rule 215(d), Pa. R.D.E.," Respondent never had any clients, nor actively engaged in the practice of law.

19. Respondent has been a USPTO registered attorney since June 13, 2016.

20. In an "Affidavit of Compliance under 37 C.F.R. § 11.58" submitted to the OED Director, Respondent averred, in part, that, since the time of her registration as a patent attorney with the USPTO, she has never practiced law or undertaken representation on behalf of any clients.

21. The "Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent under Rule 215(d), Pa. R.D.E. notes, in part, the following:

- a. Respondent demonstrated acceptance of responsibility by pleading guilty to criminal charges in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County;
- b. Respondent paid the full restitution in the amount of \$277,092.92 to the Organizations;
- c. Respondent demonstrated acceptance of responsibility for her misconduct by entering into a Joint Petition for Temporary Suspension pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 214(d)(5) on March 27, 2024 resulting in the entry of an Order of Temporary Suspension on April 5, 2024;
- d. Respondent has no prior discipline; and,
- e. Through treatment, Respondent has regulated and addressed her mental-health condition and her prognosis for the future is positive. She is committed to continuing her mental health treatment.

Joint Legal Conclusions

22. Respondent acknowledges that, based on the information contained in the joint stipulated facts, above, her acts and omissions violated 37 C.F.R. § 11.804(h), by being publicly disciplined on ethical grounds by a duly constituted authority of a State, as evidenced by the April 14, 2025 order in *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Rebecca Catherine Stein*, N. 3041 Disciplinary Docket No. 3, No. 39 DB 2024, where the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania suspended Respondent for three (3) years from the practice of law in Pennsylvania.

Agreed-Upon Sanction

23. Based on the foregoing, it is hereby ORDERED that:

- a. Respondent is suspended for three (3) years from practice before the USPTO effective, *nunc pro tunc*, to May 5, 2024;
- b. Respondent shall remain suspended from practice before the Office until the OED Director grants Respondent's petition for reinstatement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 11.60;
- c. Respondent shall comply with 37 C.F.R. § 11.58;
- d. Respondent's name shall be dissociated from any Customer Number(s) and USPTO verified Electronic System account(s), and Respondent shall not apply for, obtain, nor have her name added a USPTO Customer Number or a USPTO verified Electronic system account unless and until she is reinstated to practice before the USPTO;
- e. The USPTO is hereby authorized to disable or suspend any USPTO.gov accounts registered to Respondent as of the date of this Final Order approving the Agreement (including all accounts that Respondent has ever established, sponsored, or used in connection with any trademark or patent matter);
- f. Respondent shall not apply for a USPTO verified Electronic System account, shall not obtain a USPTO verified Electronic System account, nor shall she have her name added to a USPTO verified Electronic System account, unless and until she is reinstated to practice before the USPTO;
- g. Upon Respondent's suspension, she shall be barred from using, accessing, or assisting others in using or accessing any USPTO.gov account(s) or other USPTO filing systems for preparing or filing trademark or patent documents with the USPTO;
- h. Until a petition seeking Respondent's reinstatement to practice before the USPTO is granted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 11.60, Respondent shall be prohibited, and the USPTO is authorized to disallow Respondent, from the following: (1) opening or activating any USPTO.gov account(s) to be used for preparing or filing trademark or patent documents with the USPTO; (2) applying for, or attempting to apply for any USPTO.gov account(s) to be used for preparing or filing trademark or patent documents with the USPTO; (3)

verifying, or attempting to verify, any other person's credentials in connection with USPTO.gov account(s) to be used for preparing or filing trademark or patent documents with the USPTO; and (4) sponsoring or attempting to sponsor USPTO.gov account(s) to be used for preparing or filing trademark or patent documents with the USPTO;

i. Nothing herein shall obligate the USPTO to take action, *sua sponte*, to re-activate any USPTO.gov account disabled or suspended pursuant to this order; rather, it shall be Respondent's sole responsibility to initiate any such re-activation of any such USPTO.gov account;

j. The OED Director shall electronically publish the Final Order at the OED's electronic FOIA Reading Room, which is publicly accessible through the Office's website at: <https://foiadocuments.uspto.gov/oed/>;

k. The OED Director shall publish a notice in the *Official Gazette* that is materially consistent with the following:

Notice of Suspension

This notice concerns Rebecca Stein of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who is a registered patent attorney (Registration Number 74,649). The Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") has ordered that Ms. Stein be suspended for three (3) years from practice before the USPTO for violating 37 C.F.R. § 11.804(h) predicated upon being suspended for three (3) years on ethical grounds from the practice of law by a duly constituted authority of a State.

In 2023 in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Ms. Stein was charged with felony counts of theft and receiving stolen property after using her power as Treasurer of the Fort Pitt Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and The Fort Pitt Block House to write checks for her own enrichment valuing over \$277,000 from the accounts of those Organizations to herself. These transactions occurred from approximately 2019 to 2023.

On February 22, 2024, Ms. Stein pled guilty to one count of Misappropriation of Entrusted Property and Property of Government or Financial Institutions, in violation of 18 Pa. C.S.A. 4133(a) and (b), in front of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County.

By Order dated April 14, 2025, in *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Rebecca Catherine Stein*, N. 3041 Disciplinary Docket No. 3, No. 39 DB 2024, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania suspended Ms. Stein from the practice of law in that jurisdiction on consent of Ms. Stein. This suspension is predicated upon violations of Pennsylvania Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4(b), wherein it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to commit a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness,

or fitness as a lawyer in other respects; and Pa.R.D.E. 203(b)(1), wherein conviction of a crime as defined in Pa.R.D.E. 214(h) shall be grounds for discipline, and where a guilty plea is a conviction under Pa.R.D.E. 203(b)(1).

This action is the result of a settlement agreement between Ms. Stein and the OED Director pursuant to the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §§ 2(b)(2)(D) and 32 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 11.19, 11.20, and 11.26. Disciplinary decisions involving practitioners are posted for public reading at the Office of Enrollment and Discipline Reading Room accessible at: <https://foiadocuments.uspto.gov/oed/>.

l. Nothing in the Agreement or this Final Order shall prevent the Office from considering the record of this disciplinary proceeding, including the Final Order: (1) when addressing any further complaint or evidence of the same or similar misconduct concerning Respondent brought to the attention of the Office and (2) in any future disciplinary proceeding against Respondent (i) as an aggravating factor to be taken into consideration in determining any discipline to be imposed, and/or (ii) to rebut any statement or representation by or on Respondent's behalf;

m. Respondent waives all rights to seek reconsideration of this Final Order under 37 C.F.R. § 11.56, waives the right to have the Final Order reviewed under 37 C.F.R. § 11.57, and waives the right otherwise to appeal or challenge the Final Order in any manner; and

n. Each party shall each bear their own costs incurred to date and in carrying out the terms of this Final Order.

Users, Choe, Tricia
Tricia

Digitally signed by
Users, Choe, Tricia
Date: 2025.07.07
13:52:56 -04'00'

Tricia Choe
Associate General Counsel for General Law
United States Patent and Trademark Office

Date

on delegated authority by

Coke Morgan Stewart
Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Acting Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Final Order was sent, on this day, to the parties in the manner indicated below-

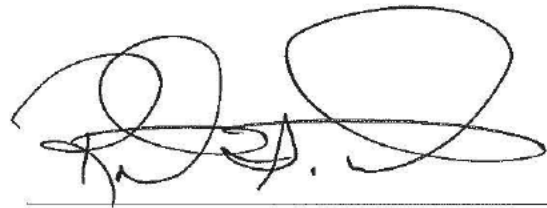
Via first-class certified mail, return receipt requested:

Mr. Ryan H. James
James Law
1200 Lincoln Way
White Oak, Pennsylvania 15131
Counsel for Respondent Rebecca C. Stein

Via e-mail:

Sydney O. Johnson
[REDACTED]
Counsel for the OED Director

7/7/25
Date



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