

**IN RE: ERIC J. CRANE****NO. BD-2014-052****SUMMARY**¹

The respondent was duly admitted to practice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on June 20, 1995.

From about 2009 to 2012, the respondent accepted appointments from the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS) to represent indigent criminal defendants on appeal. The respondent knew that he was not permitted by CPCS to accept assigned counsel appointments unless he had in effect professional liability insurance with minimum coverage amounts of \$100,000/\$300,000 and a maximum deductible of \$10,000.

Between February 27, 2009, and December 17, 2009, and again between December 17, 2010, and June 18, 2012, the respondent was not covered by professional liability insurance. During the periods when he was not covered by insurance, the respondent accepted not less than 149 appointments from CPCS to represent indigent defendants in knowing violation of his obligation to have in effect professional liability insurance.

On or about October 14, 2009, April 28, 2011, and May 24, 2012, the respondent filed with the Board of Bar Overseers his Attorney Annual Registration Statement, on which he knowingly falsely certified that he was covered by professional liability insurance.

On June 18, 2012, the respondent obtained a professional liability policy.

On July 31, 2012, and August 10, 2012, CPCS requested that the respondent provide proof of his 2011-2012 insurance policy. By letter dated October 8, 2012, the respondent sent CPCS a letter indicating that he had a gap in his insurance from December 17, 2011, to June 17, 2012. The respondent included in his letter to CPCS an insurance certificate that he had altered by changing the dates of a previous insurance certificate so that it appeared that he had coverage between December 17, 2010, and December 17, 2011. The respondent re-sent the altered document to CPCS twice more before admitting that he had altered the dates on the certificate.

The respondent's conduct in continuing to accept assignments and billing CPCS when he knew that he was not covered by professional liability insurance violated Mass. R. Prof. C. 8.4(c), (d), and (h).

The respondent's conduct in filing registration statements with the Board of Bar Overseers in October 2009, April 2011, and May 2012, in which he falsely certified that he was

¹ Compiled by the Board of Bar Overseers based on the record filed with the Supreme Judicial Court.

covered by professional liability insurance violated S.J.C. Rule 4:02(2A), and Mass. R. Prof. C. 3.4(c) and 8.4(c), (d), and (h).

The respondent's conduct in altering an insurance declarations page and providing it to CPCS as an authentic coverage page purporting to demonstrate that he was covered by professional liability insurance between December 2010 and December 2011 violated Mass. R. Prof. C. 8.4(c), (d), and (h).

The matter came before the Board of Bar Overseers on a stipulation of facts and joint recommendation for a term suspension on nine months. On April 28, 2014, the Board of Bar Overseers voted unanimously to accept the stipulation and to recommend the agreed-upon disposition to the Supreme Judicial Court. The Court so ordered on June 2, 2014, with an effective date for the suspension of July 2, 2014.