

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Daniel S. White, District IV  
Disciplinary Counsel

TO: Marcee Sloan, Board Prothonotary

DATE: April 10, 2023

RE: Office of Disciplinary Counsel  
v. Nathaniel Edmond Strasser  
No. 57 DB 2023

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Attached hereto please find a Petition for Discipline for filing in the above matter.

Thank you.

/rm

Attachment

cc: Renee L. Weber, Operations Coordinator

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL,	:	No. 57 DB 2023
Petitioner	:	
	:	
v.	:	Attorney Reg. No. 205573
	:	
NATHANIEL EDMOND STRASSER,	:	
Respondent	:	(Erie County)

PETITION FOR DISCIPLINE

Petitioner, the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (hereinafter "ODC"), by Thomas J. Farrell, Chief Disciplinary Counsel, and Daniel S. White, Disciplinary Counsel, files the within Petition for Discipline and charges Respondent, Nathaniel Edmond Strasser, with professional misconduct in violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct as follows:

1. Petitioner, whose principal office is situated at Pennsylvania Judicial Center, 601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 2700, P.O. Box 62485, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17106, is invested, pursuant to Rule 207 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement (hereinafter "Pa.R.D.E."), with the power and duty to investigate all matters involving alleged misconduct of any attorney admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and to prosecute all disciplinary proceedings brought in accordance with the various provisions of said Rules.

2. Respondent, Nathaniel Edmond Strasser, was born in 1979, was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on December 3, 2007, and maintains an office for the practice of law at Law Office of Nathaniel E. Strasser, 821 State Street, Erie, Pennsylvania 16501.

3. Respondent is subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

#### CHARGE

4. At all times material hereto, Respondent served as an assistant public defender with the Erie County Public Defender's Office.

5. On or about September 7, 2022, Allysen O'Connor was arrested and charged with, *inter alia*, DUI: Controlled Substance. This matter was thereafter docketed in Magisterial District Court 06-3-01 at MJ-06301-CR-0000288-2022 (hereinafter the "Criminal Proceedings").

6. Respondent was assigned to represent Ms. O'Connor in the Criminal Proceedings.

7. Respondent appeared for a preliminary hearing in the Criminal Proceedings on November 2, 2022.

8. Respondent was under the influence of cocaine at the time that he appeared for this preliminary hearing.

9. While Respondent was inside Magisterial District Court 06-3-01,

Pennsylvania State Trooper Chris Weber observed that Respondent, *inter alia*, wore sunglasses and was unable to sit still.

10. Trooper Weber thereafter approached Respondent in the parking lot of Magisterial District Court 06-3-01, at which time, *inter alia*:

- (a) Trooper Weber advised that he could not let Respondent drive because he was under the influence of a stimulant;
- (b) Respondent advised that he would not submit to any field sobriety tests; and
- (c) Respondent advised that he would not submit to any blood analysis.

11. During his interaction with Respondent in the parking lot of Magisterial District Court 06-3-01, Trooper Weber observed that, *inter alia*:

- (a) Respondent's pupils were dilated;
- (b) one of Respondent's nostrils had hair in it, while the other nostril was hairless and inflamed; and
- (c) Respondent's nose was bleeding.

12. After Respondent's interaction with Trooper Weber in the parking lot of Magisterial District Court 06-3-01, attorney Nicole D. Sloane Kondrlik, the chief public defender, arranged for Respondent's transportation from Magisterial District Court 06-3-01.

13. On November 2, 2022, at Ms. Sloane Kondrlik's request, Respondent submitted to a drug test.

14. This drug test was positive for cocaine.

15. On or about November 21, 2022, the Erie County Public Defender's Office terminated Respondent's employment.

16. By his conduct as alleged in Paragraphs 4 through 15 above, Respondent violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct:

- (a) RPC 1.16(a)(2), which provides that "[a] lawyer shall not represent a client or, where representation has commenced, shall withdraw from the representation of a client if the lawyer's physical or mental condition materially impairs the lawyer's ability to represent the client"; and
- (b) RPC 8.4(b), which provides that "[i]t 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."

WHEREFORE, Petitioner prays that your Honorable Board appoint, pursuant to Rule 205, Pa.R.D.E., a Hearing Committee to hear testimony and receive evidence in support of the foregoing charges and upon

completion of said hearing to make such findings of fact, conclusions of law,  
and recommendations for disciplinary action as it may deem appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

THOMAS J. FARRELL  
Chief Disciplinary Counsel



BY:

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Daniel S. White  
Attorney Registration No. 322574  
Disciplinary Counsel  
Frick Building, Suite 1300  
437 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

**VERIFICATION**

The statements contained in the foregoing Petition for Discipline are true and correct to the best of my knowledge or information and belief and are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. §4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.



4/10/23  
Date

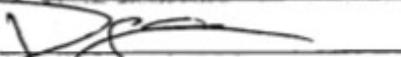
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Daniel S. White  
Disciplinary Counsel

**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts* that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

Submitted by: Office of Disciplinary Counsel

Signature: 

Name: Daniel S. White

Attorney No. (if applicable): 322574