

FILED
MAR 14 2022
CLERK U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
BY: [Signature] Deputy Clerk

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BY: [Signature] Deputy Clerk

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

In re:

THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDING OF
THOMAS J. POLIS

Case No. 2:22-mp-00102-MT

MEMORANDUM RE: RESOLUTION OF
DISCIPLINARY HEARING

DATE: March 4, 2022

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

PLACE: Courtroom: 1645
Edward R. Roybal Federal
Building and Courthouse
255 East Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

On January 4, 2022, the Honorable Neil W. Bason issued a Statement of Cause and made a referral under General Order 96-05 initiating a Disciplinary Proceeding against Thomas J. Polis. The Statement of Cause referenced a series of violations of discovery orders in In re G.L Masters, Inc., case No. 2:16-bk-24302-NB. As they are detailed in the memorandum imposing sanctions issued on January 3, 2022, dkt # 480, there is no need to repeat them here. The matter was randomly assigned to a panel of three judges of this court. A hearing was set for March 4, 2022.

1 Before the hearing, Mr. Polis, took extensive steps to remedy the situation that led to
2 the issuance of sanctions and this referral. He completed ten webinars involving five separate
3 courses on ethics, discovery rules and small firm management. He accepted full responsibility
4 for his mistakes and explained the extraordinary circumstances that led to the situation.

5 Mr. Polis has an excellent reputation in the community and has handled a large number
6 of difficult and challenging cases. He has submitted several letters of recommendation from
7 lawyers in the Southern California bankruptcy community attesting to his 30-plus years of hard
8 work and honesty. His handling of this situation after the issuance of sanctions has been
9 exemplary. He did not try to deflect or pass blame, he considered seriously the circumstances
10 that led to the situation, and he took concrete and extensive steps to ensure it would not
11 happen again.
12

13 This panel has seriously considered both the referral and the responses filed by Mr.
14 Polis. We find that no further sanctions are warranted. If anything, the court's disciplinary
15 process worked as intended in this situation. The bankruptcy judge assigned to the case
16 issued specific sanctions tailored to the dispute before him and referred any further sanction to
17 a panel of 3 judges not involved in the case. The attorney involved took the judge's comments
18 and sanctions to heart and used the opportunity to improve his firm's approach to work and
19 build in systems so that a "perfect storm" would not recur. Before the panel even heard the
20 matter, the issue had been properly and seriously addressed.
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25 Dated: March 14, 2022


MAUREEN A. TIGHE
United States Bankruptcy Judge

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Dated: March 14, 2022



SCOTT C. CLARKSON
United States Bankruptcy Judge

Dated: March 14, 2022



SANDRA R. KLEIN
United States Bankruptcy Judge

PROOF OF SERVICE OF DOCUMENT

I am over the age of 18 and not a party to this bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding. My business address is:
255 E. Temple Street, Ste 1050, Los Angeles, CA 90012

A true and correct copy of the foregoing document entitled (*specify*): Case No.: 2:22-mp-00102
Memorandum Re: Resolution of Disciplinary Hearing

will be served or was served (a) on the judge in chambers in the form and manner required by LBR 5005-2(d); and (b) in the manner stated below:

1. TO BE SERVED BY THE COURT VIA NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC FILING (NEF): Pursuant to controlling General Orders and LBR, the foregoing document will be served by the court via NEF and hyperlink to the document. On (*date*) 03/14/2022, I checked the CM/ECF docket for this bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding and determined that the following persons are on the Electronic Mail Notice List to receive NEF transmission at the email addresses stated below:

Ron Maroko ron.maroko@usdoj.gov
United States Trustee (LA) ustpregion16.la.ecf@usdoj.gov
Attorney Discipline Panel mailbox cacb_attydiscipline@cacb.uscourts.gov
Thomas J. Polis tom@polis-law.com

Service information continued on attached page

2. SERVED BY UNITED STATES MAIL:

On (*date*) _____, I served the following persons and/or entities at the last known addresses in this bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope in the United States mail, first class, postage prepaid, and addressed as follows. Listing the judge here constitutes a declaration that mailing to the judge will be completed no later than 24 hours after the document is filed.

Service information continued on attached page

3. SERVED BY PERSONAL DELIVERY, OVERNIGHT MAIL, FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION OR EMAIL (*state method for each person or entity served*): Pursuant to F.R.Civ.P. 5 and/or controlling LBR, on (*date*) 03/14/2022, I served the following persons and/or entities by personal delivery, overnight mail service, or (for those who consented in writing to such service method), by facsimile transmission and/or email as follows. Listing the judge here constitutes a declaration that personal delivery on, or overnight mail to, the judge will be completed no later than 24 hours after the document is filed.

Overnight Mail: Thomas J. Polis, Polis & Associates, 19800 Macarthur Blvd, Ste 1000, Irvine, CA 92612-2433

Service information continued on attached page

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct.

03/14/2022 Vanessa Keith Garcia
Date *Printed Name*

Vanessa A. Keith Garcia
Signature