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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS

No. 22-BG-398

IN RE AZUBUIKE AKUBUEZE OSEMENE, RESPONDENT.

A Member of the Bar
of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals
(Bar Registration No. 496245)

On Report and Recommendation
of the Board on Professional Responsibility

(DDN 101-17; BDN 18-105)

(Decided July 14, 2022)

Before MCLEESE and DEAHL, *Associate Judges*, and WASHINGTON, *Senior Judge*.

PER CURIAM: The Ad Hoc Hearing Committee concluded that respondent Azubuike Akubueze Osemene violated District of Columbia Rules of Professional Conduct 1.5(b) and 1.6(a) and engaged in dishonesty during disciplinary proceedings. Specifically, the Committee found by clear and convincing evidence that respondent failed to provide his client with a written agreement detailing his fee or the scope of representation, despite his client's request for such a written statement. It also found that respondent improperly disclosed confidential client information in his motion to withdraw. The Committee recommended that

respondent be publicly censured. The Board on Professional Responsibility accepted the Committee's findings and recommendation. Neither respondent nor Disciplinary Counsel filed an exception to the Board's Report and Recommendation.

Under D.C. Bar R. XI, § 9(h)(2), "if no exceptions are filed to the Board's report, the [c]ourt will enter an order imposing the discipline recommended by the Board upon the expiration of the time permitted for filing exceptions." *See In re Viehe*, 762 A.2d 542, 543 (D.C. 2000) (per curiam) ("When . . . there are no exceptions to the Board's report and recommendation, our deferential standard of review becomes even more deferential."). We see no reason to disregard the Board's conclusions and recommended sanction. *See In re Ponds*, 876 A.2d 636, 636-37 (D.C. 2005) (imposing public censure for "improperly disclosing confidential information in a motion to withdraw as defense counsel for a client"); *see also In re Szymkowicz*, 124 A.3d 1078, 1088 (D.C. 2015) ("[W]e accept the Board's recommendation that the Rule 1.5(b) violation *by itself* would warrant an informal admonition." (emphasis added)).

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that respondent Azubuike Akubueze Osemene is hereby publicly censured.