IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF:
RICHARD S. SKELTON
Ohio Atty. Reg. No. 0040694
RESPONDENT

Case No. 2:26-mc-032
Chief Judge Sarah D. Morrison

ORDER

IT APPEARING TO THE COURT that on June 2, 2026, the Supreme Court of Ohio has entered a suspension from the practice of law in Ohio for one year, with six months stayed on the condition that Respondent engage in no further misconduct, pursuant to Gov. Bar R. V(12)(A)(3) of the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio, and in accordance with Rule II of the Model Federal Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement, adopted by this Court on February 1, 1979.

IT IS ORDERED that Respondent shall show cause, if any, within thirty (30) days after service of this order, of any claim under the grounds set forth in Section (D) of said Rule II, why this Court should not impose the identical discipline on Respondent heretofore imposed by the Supreme Court of Ohio. Said Respondent is admonished that failure to show cause within 30 days by a pleading filed with the Clerk of this Court shall be deemed a waiver of Respondent's rights in the premises and constitute grounds for this Court to enter the order prescribed herein.

IT FURTHER APPEARING to the Court that Respondent has been forbidden by the Supreme Court of Ohio to appear on behalf of another before any court, judge, commission, board, administrative agency, or other public authority, the said Respondent, until final resolution of the matter in this Court, shall not represent or continue to represent any person in this Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of this Court shall cause a copy of this order to be served on said Respondent, by certified mail, return receipt requested to Richard S. Skelton, 110 Lyons Drive, Centerville, OH 45459 and to be published on this Court's official website.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Sarah D. Morrison, Chief Judge
United States District Court
Southern District of Ohio

Supreme Court of Ohio Clerk of Court - Filed June 02, 2026 - Case No. 2025-1324

The Supreme Court of Ohio

Disciplinary Counsel,
Relator,
v.
Richard Steven Skelton,
Respondent.

Case No. 2025-1324

ON CERTIFIED REPORT BY THE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT OF THE SUPREME COURT

ORDER

The Board of Professional Conduct filed its final report in this court on October 3, 2025, recommending that pursuant to Gov.Bar R. V(12)(A)(3), respondent, Richard Steven Skelton, be suspended from the practice of law in Ohio for a period of one year with the entire suspension stayed on condition. No objections to said final report were filed, and this cause was considered by the court.

On consideration thereof, it is ordered and adjudged by this court that pursuant to Gov.Bar R. V(12)(A)(3) and consistent with the opinion rendered herein, respondent, Richard Steven Skelton, Attorney Registration No. 0040694, last known business address in Centerville, Ohio, is suspended from the practice of law in Ohio for one year with six months stayed on the condition that he engage in no further misconduct. It is further ordered that if respondent fails to comply with the condition of the stay, the stay will be revoked and he will serve the entire one-year suspension.

It is further ordered that respondent immediately cease and desist from the practice of law in any form and is hereby forbidden to appear on behalf of another before any court, judge, commission, board, administrative agency, or other public authority.

It is further ordered that respondent is hereby forbidden to counsel, advise, or prepare legal instruments for others or in any manner perform legal services for others.

It is further ordered that respondent is hereby divested of each, any, and all of the rights, privileges, and prerogatives customarily accorded to a member in good standing of the legal profession of Ohio. It is further ordered that the Office of Attorney Services shall not issue a certificate of good standing to respondent during any period of suspension, including any stayed period of suspension.

It is further ordered that before entering into an employment, contractual, or consulting relationship with any attorney or law firm, respondent shall verify that the attorney or law firm has complied with the registration requirements of Gov.Bar R. V(23)(C). If employed pursuant to Gov.Bar R. V(23), respondent shall refrain from direct client contact except as provided in Gov.Bar R. V(23)(A)(1) and from receiving, disbursing, or otherwise handling any client trust funds or property.

It is further ordered that respondent be taxed the costs of these proceedings in the amount of $929.22, which costs shall be payable to this court by cashier's check or money order on or before 90 days from the date of this order. It is further ordered that if these costs are not paid in

full on or before 90 days from the date of this order, interest at the rate of 10% per annum shall accrue as of 90 days from the date of this order and the matter may be referred to the Attorney General for collection. It is further ordered that respondent is liable for all collection costs pursuant to R.C. 131.02 if the debt is certified to the Attorney General for collection. It is further ordered that respondent may not apply for reinstatement until costs and all accrued interest are paid in full.

It is further ordered by the court that within 90 days of the date of this order, respondent shall reimburse any amounts that have been awarded against respondent by the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection pursuant to Gov.Bar R. VIII(7)(F). It is further ordered by the court that if after the date of this order the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection awards any amount against respondent pursuant to Gov.Bar R. VIII(7)(F), respondent shall reimburse that amount to the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection within 90 days of the notice of such award.

It is further ordered that, pursuant to Gov.Bar R. X(13), respondent shall complete one credit hour of continuing legal education for each month, or portion of a month, of the suspension. As part of the total credit hours of continuing legal education required by Gov.Bar R. X(13), respondent shall complete one credit hour of instruction related to professional conduct required by Gov.Bar R. X(3)(B) for each six months, or portion of six months, of the suspension.

It is further ordered that respondent shall not be reinstated to the practice of law in Ohio until (1) respondent complies with the requirements for reinstatement set forth in the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio, (2) respondent complies with the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio, (3) respondent complies with this and all other orders of the court, and (4) this court orders respondent reinstated.

It is further ordered that on or before 30 days from the date of this order, respondent shall do the following:

1. Notify all clients being represented in pending matters and any co-counsel of respondent's suspension and consequent disqualification to act as an attorney after the effective date of this order and, in the absence of co-counsel, also notify the clients to seek legal services elsewhere, calling attention to any urgency in seeking the substitution of another attorney in respondent's place;

2. Regardless of any fees or expenses due, deliver to all clients being represented in pending matters any papers or other property pertaining to the client or notify the clients or co-counsel, if any, of a suitable time and place where the papers or other property may be obtained, calling attention to any urgency for obtaining such papers or other property;

3. Refund any part of any fees or expenses paid in advance that are unearned or not paid and account for any trust money or property in respondent's possession or control;

4. Notify opposing counsel or, in the absence of counsel, the adverse parties in pending litigation of respondent's disqualification to act as an attorney after the effective date of this order and file a notice of disqualification of respondent with the court or agency before which the litigation is pending for inclusion in the respective file or files;

5. Send all notices required by this order by certified mail with a return address where communications may thereafter be directed to respondent;

6. File with the clerk of this court and disciplinary counsel of the Supreme Court an affidavit showing compliance with this order, showing proof of service of the notices required herein, and setting forth the address where the respondent may receive communications; and

7. Retain and maintain a record of the various steps taken by respondent pursuant to this order.

It is further ordered that respondent shall keep the clerk and disciplinary counsel advised of any change of address where respondent may receive communications.

It is further ordered that service shall be deemed made on respondent by sending this order, and all other orders in this case, to respondent's last known address.

It is further ordered that the clerk of this court issue certified copies of this order as provided for in Gov.Bar R. V(17)(E)(1) and that publication be made as provided for in Gov.Bar R. V(17)(E)(2).

Sharon L. Kennedy
Chief Justice

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this document is a true and accurate copy of the entry of the Supreme Court of Ohio filed 6-2-2026 in Supreme Court case number 2025-1324

In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal of the Supreme Court of Ohio on this 2ND day of JUNE, 2026

CLERK OF COURT

by _____, Deputy