

JEFFREY S. CHIESA
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
Division of Law, Fifth Floor
124 Halsey Street
Post Office Box 45029
Newark, New Jersey 07101
Attorney for the State Board
of Court Reporting

SHORTHAND REPORTING

Joanne L. Tomaroffo

FILED

January 20, 2012

By: OLGA E. BRADFORD
Deputy Attorney General
(973) 648-3696

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF COURT REPORTING

IN THE MATTER OF

JOANNE L. SEKELLA, C.C.R.
Certificate No: 30XI00155300

TO PRACTICE COURT REPORTING
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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Administrative Action

CONSENT ORDER

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Court Reporting (hereinafter the "Board") upon receipt of a reinstatement application for certification as a court reporter in this State filed by Joanne L. Sekella, C.C.R., on or about August 28, 2008.

Review of this matter revealed that Ms. Sekella was initially certified as a court reporter in this State on or about June 1, 1988. The Board's records indicate, and the Board finds, that Ms. Sekella's certificate expired in or about June 2008 and that she failed to renew timely for the 2008-2010 licensure period. Therefore, as authorized by N.J.S.A. 45:1-7.1(b), the certificate of Ms. Sekella to practice court reporting in this State was administratively suspended without a hearing following her failure to renew the certificate within thirty (30) days of its expiration date.

Additionally, N.J.S.A. 45:15B-3.1 and N.J.A.C. 13:43-7.1(a) require that certificate holders complete fifteen (15) continuing education credits for biennial certification renewal. N.J.A.C. 13:43-7.1(a) specifically requires that the certificate holder complete the required credits during the preceding biennial period. Therefore, for the biennial renewal period of 2008-2010, certificate holders were required to complete fifteen (15) continuing education credits during the period of July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2008.

During its review of the respondent's reinstatement application, Ms. Sekella submitted information which indicated that she had completed a total of ten (10), of the required

fifteen (15), continuing education credits during the allotted time period of July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2008.

The Board, at its September 2008 meeting, voted to reinstate Ms. Sekella's certificate and granted her a three (3) month extension to fulfill the requirement of the completion of fifteen (15) continuing education credits. To date, respondent has failed to demonstrated to the Board that she has satisfied the continuing education requirements for the 2008-2010 biennial renewal period.

The Board therefore finds that Ms. Sekella failed to complete the remaining five (5) continuing education credits for the 2008-2010 licensure period. The Board concludes that these facts as detailed above establish a basis for disciplinary action.

However, the Board has concluded that sufficient mitigating circumstances, including the current economic difficulties and the requirements of Executive Order #2 issued by Governor Chris Christie on January 20, 2010, exists permitting it to alter its intended sanctions.

It appearing that the respondent desires to resolve this matter without further proceedings; and the respondent acknowledging and not contesting the findings of fact and conclusion of law made by the Board and waiving any right to a

hearing; and the Board having been satisfied that the within resolution adequately protects the public health, safety and welfare; and for good cause shown:

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 13th day of January 2012
~~NOVEMBER 2011~~ ORDERED that:

1. Respondent, Joanne L. Sekella, C.C.R., is hereby formally reprimanded for failing to timely complete the required number of continuing education credits, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h), N.J.S.A. 45:15B-3.1 and N.J.A.C. 13:43-7.1(a).

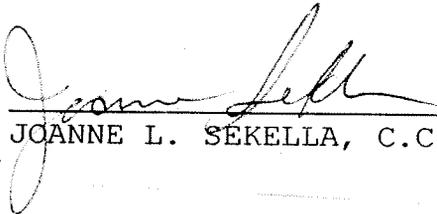
2. Respondent is hereby assessed a civil penalty in the amount of **\$500.00**, which shall be stayed in its entirety, for failing to complete the required number of continuing education credits during the preceding biennial period, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h), N.J.S.A. 45:15B-3.1 and N.J.A.C. 13:43-7.1.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD
OF COURT REPORTING

By: 

MARIANNE CAMMAROTA, C.C.R.
President

I have read and understand
the within Consent Order and
agree to be bound by its terms.
Consent is hereby given to the
Committee to enter into this Order.


JOANNE L. SEKELLA, C.C.R.

DATED: 1/3/12

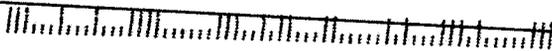
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