

Supreme Court

No. 2018-161-M.P
(UPLC 2015-6)

In re William E. Paplauskas, Jr. :

ORDER

On May 9, 2018, the Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee (“Committee”), in accordance with Rule 8(b) of the Committee’s Governing Rules, transmitted to this Court a Committee Report (“Report”) regarding the Committee’s formal investigation into allegations of unauthorized practice of law against William E. Paplauskas, Jr. (“Respondent”).

The Committee, in its Report, pursuant to Rule 7(c)(ii)(p) of the Committee’s Rules of Procedure, concluded that the allegations against the Respondent have been sustained and recommends that no civil or criminal proceedings be initiated against the Respondent, but that the Court make a pronouncement that conducting a real estate closing constitutes the practice of law and must be handled exclusively by an attorney in this state.

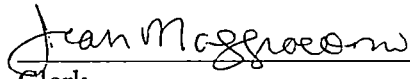
After considering the Report at conference, the Court hereby directs that the following Order shall enter:

1. The issues raised by the Committee in its Report to this Court are assigned for oral argument on a date and time to be determined by the Clerk. The Respondent shall appear on the assigned date and be prepared to argue the following issues: (1) whether, as the Committee found, the Respondent engaged in the unauthorized practice of law, and, (2) whether conducting a real estate closing constitutes the practice of law.
2. Respondent may submit a brief not exceeding fifty (50) pages in length, within sixty (60) days of the date of this Order. Said brief shall specifically address the Committee’s Report and the issues set forth in Paragraph 1.

3. The Committee, the Attorney General, the Rhode Island Bar Association, and other interested parties are invited to file briefs as amici curiae addressing the issues set forth in Paragraph 1. All briefs of amici curiae shall not exceed fifty (50) pages in length and shall be filed within sixty (60) days of the date of this Order. Copies of the Report shall be available in the Clerk's Office.

Entered as an Order of this Court this 18th day of *June* 2018.

By Order,


Clerk