

Recent ISB Discipline Cases

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Recent Discipline Orders

- ISB v. Dru M. Guthrie
- ISB v. Stephen M. Johnson
- ISB v. Ryan D. Jenks
- ISB v. Aaron J. Tolson
- ISB v. Richard L. Stacey, Jr.
- ISB v. Daniel D. Taylor
- ISB v. James F. Jacobson

Bar Counsel Duties – IBCR 504(b)

- Evaluate, investigate and dispose of grievances;
- Prosecute all Professional Conduct review proceedings before the Professional Conduct Board and the Supreme Court;
- Maintain records and keep the members of the Professional Conduct Board apprised of the status of disciplinary matters; and
- Perform all other duties and functions as may be required by the IBCR, the Board of Commissioners or the Supreme Court.

ISB v. Dru M. Guthrie, Case No. FC 25-09

- Guthrie was admitted to practice law in Idaho in 1993.
- Guthrie represented a plaintiff in a case against the client's insurer for an uninsured motorist claim.
- The client later informed Guthrie that she no longer wished to pursue the case.

ISB v. Guthrie (cont.)

- Guthrie did not inform defense counsel of the client's wish to end the case.
- Guthrie failed to timely serve discovery responses.
- Guthrie did not respond to a motion to compel the discovery responses.

ISB v. Guthrie (cont.)

- Guthrie did not serve initial disclosures or discovery responses as ordered by the trial court.
- Guthrie did not respond to a motion to dismiss the case based on his failure to comply with the order compelling discovery responses.
- The case was dismissed and costs were awarded to the defendant, which Guthrie personally paid.

ISB v. Guthrie (cont.)

- Admitted violations:
 - 3.4(c) [Knowingly disobeying an obligation under the rules of a tribunal]
 - 3.4(d) [Failing to make a reasonably diligent effort to comply with a legally proper discovery request]
 - 8.4(d) [Conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice]

ISB v. Guthrie (cont.)

- On November 19, 2025, Guthrie and the ISB stipulated to a public reprimand as an appropriate sanction.
- The Professional Conduct Board entered its Order for a public reprimand on December 2, 2025.

ISB v. Stephen M. Johnson, Case No. FC 25-10

- Johnson was admitted to practice law in Arizona in 1994 and in Idaho in 1995.
- Johnson has prior public discipline in both Arizona and Idaho.

ISB v. Johnson (cont.)

- On April 22, 2025, the State Bar of Arizona filed a formal charge complaint against Johnson regarding his representation in two post-conviction matters.
- On September 2, 2025, Johnson admitted that his conduct violated Arizona rules equivalent to Idaho Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 [Diligence], 1.4 [Communication] and 3.2 [Expediting litigation].

ISB v. Johnson (cont.)

- Johnson negligently failed to diligently perform services.
- Requested court deadline extensions with inaccurate statements for one client.
- Johnson failed to promptly communicate crucial case developments to another client.

ISB v. Johnson (cont.)

- Admitted violations:
 - 1.3 [Diligence]
 - 1.4 [Communication]
 - 3.2 [Failing to expedite litigation consistent with the interests of the client]

ISB v. Johnson (cont.)

- On November 18, 2025, Johnson and the ISB stipulated to a 60-day suspension, effective October 3, 2025 (the date of his Arizona suspension), as an appropriate sanction in Idaho pursuant to Idaho Bar Commission Rule 513(c).
- The hearing committee of the Professional Conduct Board entered its Recommendation for a suspension on November 18, 2025.

ISB v. Johnson (cont.)

- The Idaho Supreme Court entered its Disciplinary Order on January 12, 2026.
- Johnson was suspended for 60 days effective October 3, 2025.
- Upon his reinstatement, Johnson will serve a two-year probation.

ISB v. Ryan D. Jenks, Case No. FC 26-01

- Jenks was admitted to practice law in Idaho in 2011.
- Jenks had no prior discipline history in Idaho before this matter.

ISB v. Jenks (cont.)

- In February 2025, Jenks was charged in Ada County with one felony count of lewd conduct with a minor under 16 and two felony counts of sexual abuse of a child under 16.
- In September 2025, Jenks pled guilty to one felony count of lewd conduct with a minor under 16.

ISB v. Jenks (cont.)

- Admitted violation:
 - 8.4(b) [Committing a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer in other respects]

ISB v. Jenks (cont.)

- On January 29, 2026, Jenks stipulated to resign his license in lieu of disciplinary proceedings.
- The Idaho Supreme Court issued its Order Approving Stipulation to Resign in Lieu of Disciplinary Proceedings on February 2, 2026.

ISB v. Aaron J. Tolson – FC 26-02

- Tolson was admitted to practice law in Idaho in 2002.
- Before this matter, Tolson's license was interim suspended twice in less than one year.

ISB v. Tolson (cont.)

- In August 2025, the Bankruptcy Court entered an order prohibiting Tolson from filing any new Chapter 7 bankruptcy petitions as debtor's counsel.
- Tolson still collected fees and helped clients file new Chapter 7 bankruptcy petitions.
- Tolson did not inform the clients of the court's order.

ISB v. Tolson (cont.)

- The U.S. Trustee alleged that Tolson violated the court's order by creating a new law firm and having another attorney sign new petitions as debtor's counsel.
 - 34 cases were filed between October and December 2025.
- The U.S. Trustee also sought sanctions against Tolson for accepting fees to help a debtor file a petition *pro se*.

ISB v. Tolson (cont.)

- The Bankruptcy Court found Tolson to be in contempt.
- Tolson claimed some fees were prepaid for work after the petitions were filed, but the money was not held in trust.
- Tolson said he planned to file for bankruptcy himself.

ISB v. Tolson (cont.)

- Admitted violations:
 - 1.2(a) [Scope of Representation]
 - 1.4(a)(5) [Communication re limitations on conduct]
 - 3.3(a)(1) [Knowingly make a false statement of fact or law to a tribunal]
 - 3.4(c) [Knowingly disobeying an obligation under the rules of a tribunal]
 - 1.15(c) [Failing to deposit fees paid in advance]
 - 5.5(a) [Unauthorized practice of law]

ISB v. Tolson (cont.)

- On March 4, 2026, Tolson stipulated to resign his license in lieu of disciplinary proceedings.
- The Idaho Supreme Court issued its Order Approving Stipulation to Resign in Lieu of Disciplinary Proceedings on March 9, 2026.

ISB v. Tolson (cont.)

- IBCR 516 and 517 require a resigned attorney to:
 - Wind down practice and complete work within 14 days.
 - Refund unearned fees.
 - Move to withdraw or substitute in all pending matters.
 - Remove listings from law directories.
 - Not practice law or appear as an attorney before any court.
 - Not maintain a presence or office where law is practiced.
 - Mail notice of resignation in lieu to clients and opposing counsel.

ISB v. Richard L. Stacey, Jr. – FC 25-04

- Stacey was admitted to practice law in Idaho in 2003.
- Stacey represented the plaintiff in a professional negligence matter arising from landslide damages to homes.
- Stacey filed a motion to reconsider nearly two years after summary judgment was granted against his client.

ISB v. Stacey (cont.)

- A notice of appeal was filed while the motion for reconsideration was pending before the district court.
- The district court later denied the motion to reconsider.
- Stacey failed to disclose that arguments presented in the opening brief on appeal were first raised in a motion for reconsideration.

ISB v. Stacey (cont.)

- The opposing party sought sanctions under IAR 11.2, alleging failure to disclose material procedural facts in the opening brief.
- The Idaho Supreme Court imposed sanctions against Stacey individually.

ISB v. Stacey (cont.)

- Admitted violations:
 - 3.1 [Frivolous claim or defense]
 - 8.4(d) [Conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice]
 - 3.4(c) [Knowingly disobeying an obligation under the rules of a tribunal]

ISB v. Stacey (cont.)

- On March 25, 2026, Stacey and the ISB stipulated to resolve the discipline case by imposing a public censure.
- The hearing committee of the Professional Conduct Board entered its Recommendation for a public censure on March 30, 2026.
- The Idaho Supreme Court entered its Disciplinary Order on April 14, 2026.

ISB v. Daniel D. Taylor, Case No. FC 26-03

- Taylor was admitted to practice law in Idaho in 2005.
- This discipline case involved Taylor's conduct in eleven separate client matters.

ISB v. Taylor (cont.)

- Taylor admitted two violations of IRPC 1.1 [Competence].
- Taylor did not understand or appreciate the sentencing law applicable to one of his client's convictions, which led to the client seeking, and successfully obtaining, post-conviction relief.
- Taylor filed an appellate brief that did not comply with the Idaho Appellate Rules and identified the wrong standard of review.

ISB v. Taylor (cont.)

- Taylor admitted six violations of IRPC 1.2(a) [Failure to abide by client objectives], IRPC 1.3 [Diligence], and IRPC 1.4 [Communication].
- Taylor failed to timely file two appeals despite the clients' requests that he do so.
- Taylor failed to adequately communicate with his clients and keep them informed about the status of their cases and did not pursue litigation consistent with the clients' objectives.

ISB v. Taylor (cont.)

- Taylor admitted three violations of IRPC 1.5(a) [Collecting unreasonable fees].
- Taylor held himself out as a Boise attorney despite living in Blackfoot and billed \$2,275 for seven hours of travel time.
- Taylor charged and collected fees for work that was never performed.

ISB v. Taylor (cont.)

- Taylor admitted three violations of IRPC 1.16(d) [Declining or terminating representation].
- Taylor failed to refund fees that had not been earned after the representation concluded.

ISB v. Taylor (cont.)

- Taylor admitted two violations of IRPC 3.2 [Expediting litigation].
- Taylor failed to timely perform work and communicate with clients.
- One case was dismissed and one mediation was had to be rescheduled due to Taylor's conduct.

ISB v. Taylor (cont.)

- Taylor admitted four violations of IRPC 5.3(b) [Responsibilities regarding nonlawyer assistance].
- In one instance, Taylor's staff threatened to increase a client's billing and reduce the refund amount after the client's father suggested he would contact ISB.

ISB v. Taylor (cont.)

- Taylor's nonlawyer employee also sent inappropriate and inflammatory messages to a client's parents.
- Taylor failed to correct a client's misapprehension that a law clerk was an Idaho attorney in Taylor's office.

ISB v. Taylor (cont.)

- On April 27, 2026, Taylor stipulated to resign his license in lieu of disciplinary proceedings.
- The Idaho Supreme Court issued its Order Approving Stipulation to Resign in Lieu of Disciplinary Proceedings on May 18, 2026.

ISB v. James F. Jacobson, Case No. FC 25-11

- Jacobson was admitted to practice law in Idaho in 2004.
- This discipline case involved Jacobson's conduct in three separate client matters.

ISB v. Jacobson (cont.)

- A client retained Jacobson in May 2023 to prepare and file a bankruptcy petition.
- Jacobson did not prepare the petition for the client's signature until June 2024 after failing to respond to repeated requests for an update from the client.
- Jacobson failed to respond to inquiries after the client partially signed the petition. He then terminated the representation.

ISB v. Jacobson (cont.)

- Jacobson was retained in October 2022 to seek the release of a man from prison.
- Jacobson promised in March 2023, and many times thereafter, that he was preparing and would file documents.
- Jacobson never filed documents and failed to respond to repeated requests for status updates.

ISB v. Jacobson (cont.)

- Jacobson was retained in January 2024 in a child support modification case.
- After obtaining a default favorable to the client, Jacobson failed to respond to requests from the client for updates.
- Jacobson failed to respond to the court's notice of proposed dismissal and failed to inform the client the case was dismissed for inactivity.

ISB v. Jacobson (cont.)

- Admitted violations:
 - 1.2(a) [Failing to abide by a client's decisions regarding the objectives of the representation]
 - 1.3 [Failing to act with reasonable diligence]
 - 1.4 [Failing to reasonably communicate with a client about the status of a matter]

ISB v. Jacobson (cont.)

- On May 18, 2026, Jacobson stipulated to resign his license in lieu of disciplinary proceedings, to be effective June 30, 2026.
- The Idaho Supreme Court issued its Order Approving Stipulation to Resign in Lieu of Disciplinary Proceedings on June 4, 2026, effective June 30, 2026.