

DOCKET NO. UWY-CV-24-6078511S

SUPERIOR COURT

OFFICE OF CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL : J.D. OF WATERBURY

VS. : AT WATERBURY

ERICA TODD-TROTTA : MARCH 13, 2025

MOTION FOR PERMISSION TO DISBURSE FUNDS

The OCDC Trustee of the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel hereby moves for permission for partial disbursement of funds, and in support thereof represents as follows:

1. By Order dated January 10, 2025 (Dkt# 114.10), the Respondent was placed on interim suspension due to failure to substantially comply with an audit by the Statewide Grievance Committee (SGC). The Court (Bellis, J.) also authorized the OCDC Trustee to close the First Niagara Bank n/k/a Key Bank IOLTA Account ending in #3413 of Erica Todd-Trotta.

2. On March 5, 2025, the undersigned as Trustee was able to close the account and the funds in the amount of \$202,177.81 were deposited to the OCDC Trustee account.

3. By letter dated March 11, 2025, the undersigned Trustee received a report from the Statewide Grievance Committee (SGC) regarding findings of the audit in progress which specifically dealt with the personal settlement funds of Attorney Trotta. (see Exhibit A)

4. The letter states that the SGC has determined there were two deposits of personal settlement funds which totaled \$362,393.84 made to the IOLTA account in May and June of 2024. The letter concludes that personal settlement funds in the amount of \$87,548.53 remained in the account.

5. The SGC has recommended disbursement of the personal settlement funds in the amount of \$87,548.53 to the Respondent while the audit continues.

WHEREFORE, based on the recommendation of SGC that these funds be disbursed to Attorney Trotta while the audit is still pending, the Movant requests that the Court grant permission to the OCDC Trustee and the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel to disburse the funds being held in the OCDC IOLTA account in the amount of \$87,548.53 to Erica Todd-Trotta.

OFFICE OF CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

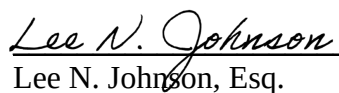
By Lee N. Johnson JN101630
Lee N. Johnson, Esq
OCDC Trustee JN 443752
Assistant Chief Disciplinary Counsel

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing was emailed this 13TH day of March 2025, as follows:

Attorney Leanne M. Larson
Office Of Chief Disciplinary Counsel
100 Washington Street
Hartford, CT 06106
leanne.larson@jud.ct.gov

Erica Weyer Todd-Trotta (407314)
900 Chapel St, 12th Fl
P.O. Box 802
New Haven, Ct 06503
etodd@trottalaw.com

 JN101630
Lee N. Johnson, Esq.

ORDER

The foregoing Motion having been heard, it is hereby ORDERED:

GRANTED/DENIED

BY THE COURT
(Clerk Judge)



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

STATEWIDE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

Elizabeth M. Rowe, *First Assistant Bar Counsel*

999 Asylum Avenue

Fifth Floor

Hartford, CT 06105

(860) 296-3848 Fax (860) 296-3847

Judicial Branch Website: www.jud.ct.gov

March 11, 2025

Attorney Erica Todd-Trotta
Trotta Trotta & Trotta, LLC
900 Chapel St, 12th Fl
P.O. Box 802
New Haven, CT 06503-0802

RE: Random Audit #23-0195 Erica Todd-Trotta

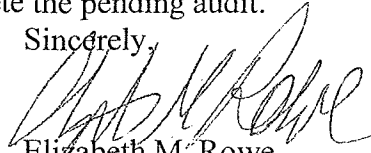
Dear Ms. Todd-Trotta:

On January 10, 2025, you were suspended from the practice of law for noncompliance with the above referenced random audit. We received a ledger card for yourself showing two deposits totaling \$362,393.84 received in May and June of 2024. The record you provided shows that there are now \$87,548.53 in this client ledger. Placement of your personal settlement funds into the IOLTA account for an extended period of time is considered commingling because you were not paid a legal fee for the work, and you have not indicated that there was any dispute as to the funds owner. After you provided us with accounting records in January, you deposited funds to cover the shortage of \$71,340.25 that existed in the trust account, representing the difference between the client totals, or monthly trial balances, and the reconciled bank balance. While an audit is being conducted of a trust account, it is generally the policy of this office to not recommend the disbursement of any funds to the attorney until the account has been balanced and fully reconciled. However, in light of the unusual circumstances, in which you placed settlement funds in the account for your own legal matter and have independently deposited the funds to cover the known shortage in the IOLTA account, it is the recommendation of my office that the \$87,548.53 in your individual client ledger be disbursed to you while the audit is still pending. At this time, we would not recommend the disbursement of any legal fees until the account has been fully reconciled.

Exhibit A

Please note that this is only a recommendation as any withdrawal of funds from this account must be approved by both the trustee and the court. If you have any questions, please contact me at 860-296-3848 x846 or elizabeth.rowe@jud.ct.gov. I will send you a separate letter indicating what accounting records are still needed to complete the pending audit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth M. Rowe", written over the typed name.

Elizabeth M. Rowe
First Assistant Bar Counsel

EMR

cc: Attorney Leanne Larson
Juliana Guerrero
Attorney Lee Johnson