

# **WAS THAT WRONG?**

## **ABSURD LEGAL ETHICS PROBLEMS**

### **DSBA WEBINAR VIA ZOOM**

SPONSORED BY THE DELAWARE STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

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**THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022 | 10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.**  
**1.0 Hours CLE credit in Enhanced Ethics for Delaware and Pennsylvania Attorneys**

#### **PRESENTERS**

David A. White, Esquire  
Kathleen M. Vavala, Esquire  
*Office of Disciplinary Counsel  
of the State of Delaware*

#### **ABOUT THE PROGRAM**

This CLE will feature stories of the absurd & outrageous from the world of legal ethics and attorney discipline, highlighting misconduct that we hope you'll instinctively avoid without needing a CLE that urges you to do so.

Visit <https://www.dsba.org/event/was-that-wrong-2022/> for all the DSBA CLE seminar policies.

*Please note that the attached materials are supplied by the speakers and presenters and are current as of the date of this posting.*

# Was That Wrong?

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David A. White, Esquire

Kathleen M. Vavala, Esquire  
*Office of Disciplinary Counsel  
of the State of Delaware*

**David A. White**  
**Chief Disciplinary Counsel, Office of Disciplinary Counsel,**  
**Delaware Supreme Court**

Mr. White is a frequent speaker/moderator in the areas of legal ethics and Alternative Dispute Resolution. In March 2021, the Delaware Supreme Court appointed Mr. White Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (“ODC”), and Arm of the Court.

The ODC, which functions as an educational and professional resource for members of the Delaware bar, receives, evaluates, investigates, and when necessary, prosecutes complaints of lawyer misconduct and the unauthorized practice of law. The Office also recommends sanctions for attorney misconduct to the Board on Professional Responsibility and the Court.

Previously, Mr. White was in private practice and was the office managing partner in the Wilmington, Delaware office of McCarter & English, LLP. There, he was a member of the firm’s business litigation, products liability, and bankruptcy practice groups. A substantial portion of his practice was devoted to ADR and representing lenders in the areas of commercial loan workouts, commercial litigation, commercial real estate, and related bankruptcy issues.

Mr. White was a Superior Court Commissioner from 2001-2008 and for several years he taught a civil litigation course for the University of Delaware, Division of Professional and Continuing Studies, where he was awarded Excellence in Teaching awards in 2007 and 2008.

Mr. White has served on the Executive Committee of the Delaware State Bar Association for many years and he is also an Honorary/Volunteer member of the Professional Guidance Committee.

**Education:**

Widener University School of Law, J.D 1986

University of Delaware, B.A. 1982

## KATHLEEN M. VAVALA

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Kathy Vavala has been a member of the Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey state bars, as well as the federal bar for the U.S. District Court of Delaware, for twenty-six years. She is currently Disciplinary Counsel for the Supreme Court of the State of Delaware. Prior to that appointment, Ms. Vavala was a Deputy Attorney General for the Delaware Department of Justice, where she headed the Domestic Violence, Child Abuse and Elder Abuse Unit, the Criminal Division Felony Screening Unit, and served as a senior litigator and mentor in the Criminal, Family, and Fraud Divisions. Ms. Vavala is a graduate of Franklin & Marshall College and Delaware Law School. Previously, she was a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Vincent A. Bifferato, Resident Judge of the Delaware Superior Court and associated with the law firm of Tybout, Redfearn & Pell. Ms. Vavala is an adjunct professor for Delaware Law School and Saint Joseph's University, where she teaches health care law and finance, biomedical ethics, and advanced legal writing. Ms. Vavala is also a frequent presenter on professionalism, civility, and ethical standards applicable to the legal profession at both the local and national level.