

STATE OF VERMONT  
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM

In Re: Thomas Melone  
PRB File No. 120-2025

**CONFLICT DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL'S OBJECTION TO  
*RESPONDENT'S MOTION TO VACATE  
THE ORDER OF JANUARY 5, 2026***

Respondent moves to vacate the Hearing Panel's January 5, 2026 *Order* denying a motion by the Respondent for an interlocutory appeal from an order denying a motion to dismiss the *Petition of Misconduct*.

It is hard to appreciate the purpose of the Respondent's motion. The record of these proceedings makes more than clear that:

- The Respondent moved the Hearing Panel for permission to seek review by the Vermont Supreme Court of the denial of his motions to dismiss the *Petition of Misconduct*;
- Conflict Disciplinary Counsel objected;
- The Hearing Panel, for reasons stated on the record, denied the Respondent's motion; and
- Despite the Supreme Court's rejection of previous similar efforts, the Respondent filed a motion in the Supreme Court for permission to file an interlocutory appeal.

The Supreme Court will resolve this issue. There is no point in further proceedings before the Hearing Panel on this issue. There is no point to multiple motions for permission to appeal.

The Hearing Panel should deny the *Respondent's Motion to Vacate the Order of January 5, 2026*.

Dated: January 27, 2026

/s/Michael F. Hanley

Michael F. Hanley  
Conflict Disciplinary Counsel  
Plante & Hanley, P.C.  
Post Office Box 708  
White River Junction, VT 05001  
802-295-3151, Ext. 102  
mfhanley@plantehanley.com

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that I filed *Conflict Disciplinary Counsel's Objection to Respondent's Motion to Vacate the Order of January 5, 2026* with the Professional Responsibility Program by sending the same via email to:

Merrick.Grutchfield@vtcourts.gov

with a copy to the Respondent via email to:

Thomas.Melone@gmail.com

Dated: January 27, 2026

/s/Michael F. Hanley  
Michael F. Hanley  
Conflict Disciplinary Counsel