

Ryan R. Miner

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Attorney Grievance Commission of Maryland
Office of Bar Counsel
200 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Suite 300
Annapolis, MD 21401

June 26, 2023

RE: Formal Complaint Against Attorney Robert Joseph Leonard's Unprofessional Conduct and Defamatory Practices

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express a formal grievance against Attorney **Robert Joseph Leonard** of [Leonard & McCliggot Law Group LLC](#) | [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. Mr. Leonard is reachable at [REDACTED].

Mr. Leonard's reprehensible conduct, both inside and outside the courtroom, has severely breached the standards of professional ethics and decorum we hold dear. He has overstepped the boundary of professional respectability, rendering a level of hostility and defamatory belligerence entirely out of place in our legal community.

As a Maryland-based journalist, I have written at least four articles since 2019 highlighting Mr. Leonard's unprofessional conduct. In turn, Mr. Leonard is using his esteemed position as an attorney and our sacred court system as his means of revenge.

In January 2021, Mr. Leonard orchestrated and executed a malevolent and defamatory social media campaign against me, encouraging his vast social media following and political connections to tarnish me publicly. I lost my job due to Mr. Leonard's aggressive online smear campaign in which he coached his social media followers to attack me professionally (*please see the attached Facebook posts and a letter from my attorney at the time outlining Mr. Leonard's attacks*).

Mr. Leonard's unprofessional attacks called for my personal and professional 'cancellation.' His public onslaught, rooted in a childish political vendetta, was an attempt to dismantle my character, impugn my credibility, tarnish my reputation, and libel my media outlet, *A Miner Detail*, actions that I perceive as an egregious affront to the dignity of our legal system.

[REDACTED]

I believe Mr. Leonard's acceptance of the representation of his client in the Maryland peace order hearing, under these circumstances, demonstrates a lack of respect for the judicial process and may violate the Maryland Attorneys' Rules of Professional Conduct, specifically Rule 1.7 regarding conflicts of interest.

During the June 23, 2023, peace order hearing in Frederick County District Court, Mr. Leonard's behavior was nothing short of unhinged and abusive. He displayed uncanny aggression and hostility inside the courtroom. His behavior was alien to the decorum expected of a professional legal advocate.

Mr. Leonard's contemptuous conduct, which included an overtly hostile cross-examination, was interspersed with disrespectful, emotionally unhinged outbursts and interruptions. I have never felt more uncomfortable in my life than when in the presence of Mr. Leonard.

On at least two occasions throughout the June 23, 2023, peace order hearing, my attorney, [REDACTED], and I politely but forcefully interjected when Mr. Leonard insisted upon speaking over us, disallowing us to finish our statements during an otherwise routine court proceeding.

Mr. Leonard's courtroom theatrics demonstrated an unstable and emotionally unbalanced attorney whose relationship with a client is clearly outside the boundaries of attorney-client professionalism.

More alarming, Mr. Leonard publicly accosted and cursed at a fellow Maryland attorney, [REDACTED], while standing in the District Court's third-floor lobby, shouting, "F*** off!" The bizarre incident, entirely initiated by Mr. Leonard, was overheard by several stunned onlookers, including [REDACTED].

Such attorney behavior tarnishes the reputation of our legal system.

Furthermore, Mr. Leonard, an officer of the court, has issued threats of faux litigation against me in a menacing and ceaseless attempt to silence and intimidate me. This intimidation tactic reflects an abuse of power and authority, leveraging the fear of legal consequences to stifle dissent and critique.

I implore the Commission to act with the urgency that this issue demands and launch an investigation into this attorney's conduct. Our Maryland legal system must maintain the highest integrity, credibility, and professionalism.

I request Mr. Leonard be held accountable for his actions, which are tantamount to professional misconduct and potentially actionable defamation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

I am willing and prepared to cooperate fully with your investigation, providing any necessary documentation, evidence, and witnesses to substantiate my complaint.

In the spirit of preserving the dignity and integrity of our profession,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ryan R. Miner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Ryan R. Miner
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