

*People v. Michael Yi*, 22PDJ050. February 24, 2023.

The Presiding Disciplinary Judge approved the parties' amended stipulation to discipline and suspended Michael Yi (attorney registration number 36279) for thirty months. The suspension, which takes into account significant mitigation, is effective on April 15, 2023. To be reinstated to the practice of law after his suspension, Yi must prove by clear and convincing evidence that he has been rehabilitated, has complied with all disciplinary orders and rules, and is fit to practice law.

In November 2016, Yi hired his brother to work as a legal assistant at his firm. During at least a portion of his employment at the firm, Yi's brother served as a licensed notary public. In October 2020, Yi's brother took a leave of absence from the law firm; as a result, no notary worked in the office from October 2020 until May 2021. During that time, Yi used his brother's notary stamp and license, and he forged his brother's signature on at least fourteen different clients' settlement documents.

Through this conduct, Yi violated Colo. RPC 8.4(b) (it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to commit a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer in other respects) and Colo. RPC 8.4(c) (a lawyer must not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation).

The case file is public per C.R.C.P. 242.41(a).