



**BEFORE THE BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS  
APPOINTED BY  
THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS**

<b>IN THE MATTER OF JOSEPH SALVATORE COCCHIARO STATE BAR CARD NO. 24069525</b>	§ § §	<b>CAUSE NO. 70771</b>
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**JUDGMENT OF DISBARMENT**

On the 24th day of July, 2025, the above-styled and numbered compulsory disciplinary action was called for hearing before the Board of Disciplinary Appeals. Respondent, Joseph Salvatore Cocchiaro, by and through his attorney of record, waived his right to participate in a hearing. All questions of fact and all issues of law were submitted to the Board of Disciplinary Appeals for determination by submission based on the documents and pleadings before the Board. Having considered the pleadings on file, including the exhibits attached, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals makes the following findings, conclusions, and orders:

**Findings of Fact.** The Board of Disciplinary Appeals finds:

- (1) Respondent, Joseph Salvatore Cocchiaro, State Bar Card Number 24069525, is licensed but not currently authorized to practice law in the State of Texas by the Supreme Court of Texas.
- (2) On September 1, 2022, Respondent was charged by Indictment with “Burglary of a Habitation Intend Other Felony,” referencing the offense of Criminal Mischief, in violation of Texas Penal Code § 30.02(d), in Cause Number 22-1079-K277, styled *State of Texas v. Joseph Salvatore Cocchiaro*, in Williamson County, Texas.
- (3) On April 17, 2024, a Judgment of Conviction by Jury was filed in Cause Number 22-1079-K277, styled *The State of Texas v. Joseph Salvatore Cocchiaro*, in the 277th District Court, Williamson County, Texas, indicating that Respondent pleaded guilty to the offense of Burglary of a Habitation with Intent to Commit Other Felony in violation of Texas Penal

Code § 30.02(d), a first-degree felony, and elected to have the jury assess punishment. Respondent was committed to confinement for a term of eleven (11) years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice pursuant to the jury's punishment assessment.

- (4) Respondent, Joseph Salvatore Cocchiaro, is the same person as the Joseph Salvatore Cocchiaro, who is the subject of the Judgment of Conviction by Jury described above.

**Conclusions of Law.** Based upon the foregoing findings of fact, the Board of Disciplinary

Appeals makes the following conclusions of law:

- (1) This Board has exclusive jurisdiction, and an affirmative duty, to hear and determine this matter. TEX. RULES DISCIPLINARY P. R. 7.08(G).
- (2) Looking solely to the elements of Burglary of a Habitation with Intent to Commit Other Felony under Texas Penal Code § 30.02(d), Respondent pleaded guilty to and was convicted of an Intentional and Serious Crime, as defined by Texas Rule of Disciplinary Procedure 1.06(V) and (GG).
- (3) The conviction is final.
- (4) Compulsory discipline is warranted in this case. TEX. RULES DISCIPLINARY P. R. 8.04.
- (5) Respondent, Joseph Salvatore Cocchiaro, therefore, shall be disbarred. TEX. RULES DISCIPLINARY P. R. 8.05.

It is, accordingly, **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED** that Respondent, Joseph Salvatore Cocchiaro, State Bar Card No. 24069525, be and hereby is **DISBARRED** from the practice of law in the State of Texas, and his license to practice law in this state be and hereby is revoked.

It is further **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED** that Respondent, Joseph Salvatore Cocchiaro, is prohibited from practicing law in Texas, holding himself out as an attorney at law, performing any legal services for others, accepting any fee directly or indirectly for legal services, appearing as counsel or in any representative capacity in any proceeding in any Texas court or before any administrative body or holding himself out to others or using his name, in any

manner, in conjunction with the words “attorney at law,” “attorney,” “counselor at law,” “esquire,” “Esq.,” or “lawyer.”

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Joseph Salvatore Cocchiaro, shall immediately notify each of his current clients, if any, in writing of this disbarment. In addition to such notification, Respondent is **ORDERED** to return any files, papers, unearned monies, and other property, if any, which belongs to clients and former clients and is in Respondent’s possession or control, to the respective clients or former clients or to another attorney at the client’s or former client’s request, within thirty (30) days of the date of this judgment.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Joseph Salvatore Cocchiaro, shall file with the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel’s Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701) within thirty (30) days of the signing of this judgment, an affidavit stating that all current clients have been notified of Respondent’s disbarment and that all files, papers, monies, and other property belonging to all clients and former clients have been returned as ordered herein. If Respondent should be unable to return any such files, papers, monies, or other property, Respondent’s affidavit shall state with particularity the efforts made by Respondent with respect to each particular client and the cause of his inability to return to said client any file, paper, money, or other property.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Joseph Salvatore Cocchiaro, shall, on or before thirty (30) days from the signing of this judgment, notify in writing each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, administrative judge or officer, and chief justice of each and every court or tribunal in which Respondent has any matter pending, if any, of the terms of this judgment, the style and cause number of the pending matter(s), and the name, address, and telephone number of the client(s) Respondent has represented.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Joseph Salvatore Cocchiaro, shall file with the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701), within thirty (30) days of the date of this judgment, an affidavit stating that Respondent has sent written notice to each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, administrative judge or officer, and chief justice in accordance with the terms of this judgment.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Joseph Salvatore Cocchiaro, shall immediately surrender his Texas law license and permanent State Bar Card to the Statewide Compliance Monitor, Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, Texas 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701), for transmittal to the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas.

It is further **ORDERED** that this Judgment of Disbarment shall be made a matter of public record and that notice of this disciplinary action shall be published in the *Texas Bar Journal*.

Signed this 31<sup>st</sup> day of July 2025.



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**VICE CHAIR PRESIDING**

Board members W.C. Kirkendall, Fernando Bustos, Arthur D'Andrea, Melissa Goodwin, and Robert Henneke did not participate in this decision.