

1 Case Nos. OBC17-0374
2 OBC17-0553



8 **STATE BAR OF NEVADA**
9 **SOUTHERN NEVADA DISCIPLINARY BOARD**

9 STATE BAR OF NEVADA,) **PUBLIC REPRIMAND**
10 Complainant,)
11 vs.)
11 LEILA HALE, ESQ.,)
12 NV BAR NO. 7368)
12 Respondent.)

13 To: Leila L. Hale, Esq.
14 C/O: William B. Terry, Esq.
15 530 South Seventh Street
16 Las Vegas, NV 89101
17 *Counsel for Leila Hale.*

18 Rochelle Mortensen ("Mortensen") and Mahogeny Bennett ("Bennett") retained you to
19 represent them in personal injury matters. In both matters, you, pursuant to office policy, sent your non-
20 attorney employee, Fermin G. Serafin ("Serafin") to conduct 'home visits' . In these visits, Serafin
21 presented the potential clients with retainer agreements as well as various other legal documents,
22 including a HIPPA release, a general authorization, a Medicare, Medicaid, and SCI-HP Extension act
23 reporting form, and a power of attorney form . Pursuant to your office policy, Serafin
24 read through these documents with Mortensen and Bennett.
25

1 In addition, in the Bennet matter, Serafin advised Bennett regarding potential attorney's
2 liens that may be filed by her already-retained counsel if she were to switch counsel. Serafin also
3 advised Bennett that it would be best to have one attorney handle both matters.

4 Pursuant to the decision of the Supreme Court, these home visits constituted the
5 unauthorized practice of law, and, as such, Serafin's actions under your supervision constitute a
6 violation of Rule of Professional Conduct 5.3 (Responsibilities Regarding Non-Lawyer
7 Assistants).

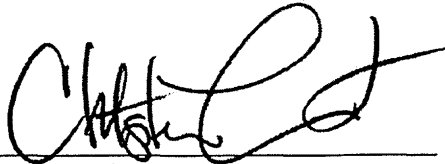
8 Further, in both the Bennett and Mortensen matters, the retainer agreement presented
9 contained a provision which, in the event of withdraw by Hale Law, or the early discharge of Hale
10 Law called for, at a minimum, a "combined firm rate" of \$1,000 per hour for "all attorney and staff
11 time".

12 As this panel found, such an agreement is unreasonable and violates Rule of Professional
13 Conduct 1.5 (Fees).

14 In light of your violation of Rules of Professional Conduct 1.5 and 5.3, you are hereby
15 PUBLICLY REPRIMANDED.

16 DATED this 28th day of January, 2020.

17
18 SOUTHERN NEVADA DISCIPLINARY BOARD

19
20 By: 
21 Christopher J. Laurent, Esq.,
22 Formal Hearing Panel Chair
23
24
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