



FILED

MAY 07 2018

STATE BAR OF NEVADA
SOUTHERN NEVADA SCREENING PANEL

STATE BAR OF NEVADA
BY: S. M. R.
OFFICE OF BAR COUNSEL

STATE BAR OF NEVADA,)
Complainant,)
vs.)
Lilian Donohue, ESQ.,)
Nevada Bar No. 533,)
Respondent.)

LETTER OF REPRIMAND

To: Lilian Donohue, Esq.
2240 E. Calvada Blvd.
Pahrump, NV 89048

Grievance File OBC17-1579
Grievance File OBC18-0194¹

On Tuesday, April 24, 2018, a Screening Panel of the Southern Nevada Disciplinary Panel convened to determine whether you violated the Rules of Professional Conduct in your representation of Frances Gower (“Gower”) and Patrick Cougill, Esq. (“Cougill”).

According to their findings, in May of 2017, you were retained by Cougill to complete a probate matter for the estate of his mother who died in Nye County. You requested a \$5,000 retainer be sent overnight. Cougill sent the check on May 3, 2017 and you filed the Will on May 11, 2017.

However, after multiple requests from Cougill asking you to send a retainer agreement, on August 3, 2017, Cougill decided to terminate you, and asked for an accounting of his retainer and a return of any unused portion. Cougill’s request went unanswered.

On October 17, 2017, Cougill left a voice message for you which was not returned. Cougill tried to call you again on November 8, 2017 but your voice mail box was full. Cougill sent you a letter on November 12, 2017 but again received no response.

¹ Due to the similarity of these two grievances, they have been consolidated by the Screening Panel.

1 Cougill then went to your office on December 15, 2017 where he spoke with you about his
2 concerns. You acknowledged your communications failures due to personal matters and agreed to
3 provide an accounting and refund.

4 You represented to the State Bar investigator that you had billed approximately three hours on
5 Cougill's case at a rate of \$250 per hour, but that you intended to refund Cougill in full due to your
6 communications failure.

7 Second, in November of 2016, you were retained by Gower to represent her in a personal injury
8 claim regarding a June 29, 2016 car accident. After analyzing the case, you believed that Gower was
9 unlikely to obtain a better result than the \$2,176 offer of settlement that had already been received,
10 thus, you took no further action on the case. You failed to communicate this information to Gower.

11 In October of 2017, due to your inaction, Gower decided to terminate you and requested her file
12 back. After multiple requests, Gower finally received her file on February 16, 2018. Gower is currently
13 attempting to retain new counsel to file litigation prior to the expiration of the June 29, 2018 statute of
14 limitations.

15 RPC 1.3 states, "A lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a
16 client."

17 RPC 1.4 states, in relevant part:

18 A lawyer shall:

19 (1) Promptly inform the client of any decision or circumstance with respect to which the client's
informed consent is required by these Rules;

20 (2) Reasonably consult with the client about the means by which the client's objectives are to be
accomplished;

21 (3) Keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the matter

22 (4) Promptly comply with reasonable requests for information...

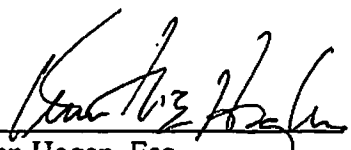
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1 Your actions in representing Gower and Cougill clearly violated the above-listed Rules of
2 Professional Conduct. As such, you are hereby **REPRIMANDED**. In addition, within 30 days of this
3 Letter of Reprimand you are required to remit to the State Bar of Nevada the amount of \$1,500
4 pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 120(3).

5 Dated this 7th day of May, 2018

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8 Ken Hogan, Esq.
9 Chair, Screening Panel
10 Southern Nevada Screening Panel
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