

1 Case Number: OBC17-1004



2 FILED

3 FEB 07 2018

4 STATE BAR OF NEVADA

5 BY: *[Signature]*
OFFICE OF BAR COUNSEL

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7 **STATE BAR OF NEVADA**

8 **NORTHERN NEVADA DISCIPLINARY BOARD**

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11 **LETTER OF REPRIMAND**

12 TO: Sean L. Brohawn, Esq.
13 627 Sadlier Way
14 Reno, Nevada 89512

15 A Screening Panel of the Northern Nevada Disciplinary Board recently reviewed the
16 above-referenced grievance file. The Panel unanimously concluded that a Letter of
17 Reprimand should be issued to you for violation of RPC 1.5 (Fees), RPC 1.15 (Safekeeping
18 of Property), RPC 1.16 (Declining or Terminating Representation), and RPC 8.1(b) (Bar
Admissions and Disciplinary Matters).

19 A client hired you on May 10, 2017, to work on a title issue and possibly file a quiet
20 title action involving property your client wished to sell in Dayton, Nevada. You were paid
21 a \$5,000 retainer which you instructed be deposited directly into your firm's operating
22 account. Your client alleges that you promised to send him a retainer agreement for his
23 signature, but never did.

24 Your client reports that at the end of May, the two of you communicated by phone
25 and, at your request, your client provided the documents you said were needed to complete

1 the task. In late June, you returned a call to your client and explained that you had been
2 suspended by the Nevada Supreme Court and would not be able to continue with the case.

3 You suggested that your client contact a particular attorney about taking over the
4 case and offered to transfer both the retainer and the file to the new counsel. It was further
5 reported to the State Bar that you never sent your former client a retainer agreement, a
6 statement or a bill for services. Your former client he retained new counsel, who did not
7 have benefit of either the file of documents that were given to you or the retainer.

8 The client did subsequently retain other counsel to handle the quiet title action and
9 the representation is now completed.

10 Your failure to perform sufficient services for the client renders the \$5,000 fee
11 unreasonable, and therefore, it is a violation of RPC 1.5 (Fees). Your failure to safe-keep,
12 and return, the funds to the client when it was clear you could not perform the services is a
13 violation of RPC 1.15 (Safekeeping of Property). Finally, your failure to provide the file
14 documents, and the unearned retainer funds, to the client was a violation of your
15 obligations pursuant to RPC 1.16 (Declining or Terminating Representation).


16 In addition, the Office of Bar Counsel forwarded you a copy of your former client's
17 grievance and requested a response. You failed to respond, which is a separate violation of
18 RPC 8.1 (Bar Admission and Disciplinary Matters).

19 The Panel felt that this misconduct warranted suspension. But the Panel considered,
20 as a mitigating factor, that you are already suspended for six-months-and-one-day for
21 similar misconduct during substantially the same time period, and therefore, it expects that
22 you will be required to account for this misconduct at any reinstatement hearing held in
23 the future.

24 Accordingly, you are hereby **REPRIMANDED** for violating RPC 1.5 (Fees), RPC
25 1.15 (Safekeeping of Property), RPC 1.16 (Declining or Terminating Representation), and

1 RPC 8.1(b) (Bar Admissions and Disciplinary Matters). The Panel instructed that in
2 addition to this Letter of Reprimand, you must return the \$5,000 to your former client
3 within 30 days of the formal issuance of this Letter of Reprimand. I trust that this
4 reprimand will serve as a reminder to you of your ethical obligations, and that no such
5 problems will arise in the future.

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7 DATED this 3d day of January, 2017.

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9 By: 
10 STEPHEN S. KENT, ESQ.
11 Screening Panel Chair
12 Northern Nevada Disciplinary Board
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