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Case No. SG12-1954

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STATE BAR OF NEVADA BY

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SOUTHERN NEVADA DISCIPLINARY BOARD

STATE BAR OF NEVADA,)	
Complainant,)	
VS.)	
DEAN Y. KAJIOKA, ESQ., Bar No. 5030,		
Respondent.)	

LETTER OF REPRIMAND

DEAN Y. KAJIOKA, ESQ. TO: 8530 W. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 100 Las Vegas, Nevada 89117

- On or about July 18, 2011, you were appointed to represent Darrel Barnes 1. ("Barnes") in State v. Barnes, Case No. C-11-271878-1, which was pending in Department 23 of the Eighth Judicial District Court.
- 2. At the time that you were appointed, Barnes had already pleaded guilty to one (1) count of Attempted Lewdness With a Minor. Barnes had been represented by the Public Defender's office at the time he pleaded guilty.
- On or about October 17, 2011, Barnes filed a pro per Notice of Appeal with the 3. Supreme Court of Nevada ("Supreme Court") to appeal his conviction. At that time, you were listed as Barnes' attorney-of-record in the District Court case.1

Indeed, records of the Eighth Judicial District Court still currently list you as Barnes' counsel.

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- 4. On or about October 19, 2011, the Supreme Court electronically sent you a Notice to Request Rough Draft Transcripts.
- 5. On November 17, 2011, as you had not filed the rough draft transcript request form, the Supreme Court entered an Order Conditionally Imposing Sanctions, and ordered you to pay \$500 to the Supreme Court Law Library unless you timely filed the required documents.
- 6. The November 17, 2011, Order also reminded you that the fast track statement and appendix were due by November 28, 2011.
- 7. On November 28, 2011, you filed a Response to Order Conditionally Imposing Sanctions in which you advised the Supreme Court that you had been unable to make contact with Barnes, had no information regarding the basis for Barnes' claims related to the appeal, and, therefore, were unable to prepare and file the required documents.
- 8. During the initial period that you represented Barnes, he resided in the Clark County Detention Center. However, Barnes was released after the sentencing hearing on September 19, 2011, and did not communicate further with you after his release.
- 9. On December 28, 2011, the Supreme Court entered an Order Vacating Conditional Sanctions and Directing Filing of Documents. The Supreme Court stated that it recognized the difficult position that you were in, but declined to relieve you of your obligations pursuant to Nevada Rule of Appellate Procedure ("NRAP") 3C (Fast Track Criminal Appeals).
- 10. The Supreme Court also noted that pursuant to the conditions of Barnes' probation, Barnes had to keep the Division of Parole and Probation apprised of his current address, and it was counsel's duty to determine what issues to raise on appeal based on counsel's exercise of professional judgment.

- 11. The December 28, 2011, Order gave you an additional ten (10) days to file the rough draft transcript request form, and fifty (50) days to file and serve the fast track statement and appendix.
- 12. On May 11, 2012, as you had not complied with the Order of December 28, 2011, the Supreme Court issued an Order to Appear and Show Cause for you to appear on June 13, 2012.
- 13. On May 18, 2012, you filed an affidavit filed in the Supreme Court in which denied receiving this Court's December 28, 2011, Order.
- 14. On June 20, 2012, the Supreme Court issued an Order following the hearing on June 13, 2012. In its Order, the Supreme Court recognized your difficult position, but stated again that it was counsel's responsibility to decide what issues to raise.
- 15. The Supreme Court further noted that there are several issues that may be raised on appeal from a judgment of conviction entered pursuant to a guilty plea.
- 16. The June 20, 2012, Order gave you forty-five (45) days to file the rough draft transcript request form, fast track statement, and appendix, and cautioned you that failure to timely file the required documents would result in additional sanctions.
- 17. On August 6, 2012, you filed a Fast Track Appeal Statement, Request for Rough Draft Transcript and Appendix. However, you did not support your legal argument for the appeal with citation to any legal authority, nor include a single citation to the appendix.
- 18. The appendix submitted by you also did not contain copies of the transcripts necessary for the Supreme Court's review.
- 19. On December 12, 2012, the Supreme Court filed an Order referring the matter to the State Bar for investigation, and sanctioned you \$500 to be paid to the Supreme Court Law Library in twenty (20) days. According to Supreme Court records, your payment for the sanctions was received by the Supreme Court in January 2013.

20. In light of the foregoing, you violated Rule of Professional Conduct ("RPC") 1.3 (Diligence), RPC 3.4(c) (Fairness to Opposing Party and Counsel: Knowingly disobeying an obligation under the rules of a tribunal), and RPC 8.4(d) (Misconduct: Engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice), and are hereby PRIVATELY REPRIMANDED.

DATED this day of February, 2014.

ELLEN BEZIAN, ESQ

Formal Hearing Pane Chair

Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board