

# STATE BAR OF NEVADA

## LETTER OF REPRIMAND

September 16, 2022

Brian J. Ramsey, Esq.  
Bar No. 12475  
4055 Spencer, St., Suite 130  
Las Vegas, NV 89119

Re: Grievance No. OBC19-1224/Stephanie Salas

Dear Mr. Ramsey:

In its Order Approving Conditional Guilty Plea Agreement filed June 14, 2021, the Nevada Supreme Court directed that you receive a Letter of Reprimand following your successful completion of certain conditions. As you have successfully completed those conditions, this letter shall constitute a delivery of that reprimand.

On or about November 18, 2015, Stephanie Salas (hereinafter “Ms. Salas”) retained you to assist her husband, Simon Rodriguez-Barranco (hereinafter “Mr. Rodriguez-Barranco”), with filing immigration documents.

On or about February 5, 2016, you filed Mr. Rodriguez-Barranco’s Form I-130 and Form I-485, which were accepted by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (“USCIS”) on or about February 9, 2016. However, USCIS rejected Mr. Rodriguez-Barranco’s Form I-485 because this form required that he be inspected and admitted or paroled into the United States.

You knew that Mr. Rodriguez-Barranco was unlawfully present in the United States as he entered without inspection or parole. As such, you should have filed the I-601A Provisional Waiver as opposed to the Form I-485.

On or about May 8, 2017, you paid \$445 in filing fees on behalf of Mr. Rodriguez-Barranco.

On or about May 16, 2018, you received a copy of a letter sent by the National Visa Center (“NVC”) to Mr. Rodriguez-Barranco stating that as NVC was not contacted for more than one year, any fees that were already paid must be repaid.

On or about June 17, 2019, you repaid the fees at no expense to Mr. Rodriguez-Barranco or Ms. Salas.



3100 W. Charleston Blvd.  
Suite 100  
Las Vegas, NV 89102  
phone 702.382.2200  
toll free 800.254.2797  
fax 702.385.2878

9456 Double R Blvd., Ste. B  
Reno, NV 89521-5977  
phone 775.329.4100  
fax 775.329.0522

[www.nvbar.org](http://www.nvbar.org)

On or about September 24, 2019, you submitted Mr. Rodriguez-Barranco's I-601A Provisional Waiver. However, USCIS rejected Mr. Rodriguez-Barranco's I-601A Provisional Waiver for the following reasons: (1) it was filed on an outdated version of the form; (2) the Fee Receipt provided by the Department of State was missing; and (3) the NVC Consular Case Number provided by the Department of State was missing.

Mr. Rodriguez-Barranco and Ms. Salas complained of your lack of communication throughout the representation, and you withdrew from the case at their request.

Rule of Professional Conduct ("RPC") 1.1 (Competence) states that "[a] lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client. Competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness, and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation."

In this case, you failed to provide competent representation to Mr. Rodriguez-Barranco when you erroneously filed the inapplicable Form I-485 with USCIS.

RPC 1.4 (Communication) states, in pertinent part that a lawyer "shall (1) promptly inform the client of any decision or circumstance with respect to which the client's informed consent is required by these Rules; (2) Reasonably consult with the client about the means by which the client's objectives are to be accomplished; (3) Keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the matter; (4) Promptly comply with reasonable requests for information; and (5) Consult with the client about any relevant limitation on the lawyer's conduct when the lawyer knows that the client expects assistance not permitted by the Rules of Professional conduct or other law."

In this case, you failed to keep Mr. Rodriguez-Barranco and/or Ms. Salas reasonably informed about the status of their matter.

Accordingly, you are hereby REPRIMANDED for violating RPC 1.1 (Competence) and RPC 1.4 (Communication). I trust that this reprimand will serve as a reminder to you of your ethical obligations, and that no such problems will arise in the future.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Sheets  
Thomas R. Sheets (Sep 16, 2022 08:52 PDT)

Thomas R. Sheets, Esq.  
Hearing Panel Chair  
Southern Disciplinary Board