



FILED

JAN 26 2021

STATE BAR OF NEVADA  
BY [Signature]  
OFFICE OF BAR COUNSEL

1 Case No: OBC19-1104

3  
4 STATE BAR OF NEVADA

5 NORTHERN NEVADA DISCIPLINARY BOARD

6	STATE BAR OF NEVADA,	)
		)
7	Complainant,	)
	vs.	)
8		)
9	AMY L. SUGDEN, ESQ.,	)
	Nevada Bar No. 9983,	)
10	Respondent.	)

11 Amy L. Sugden, Esq.  
12 9728 Gillespie Street  
13 Las Vegas, NV 89183

**PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

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15 On or about October 29, 2020, a Formal Hearing Panel of the Northern Nevada Disciplinary  
16 Board convened and heard the above-referenced grievance. Based on the evidence presented through  
17 the Conditional Guilty Plea in Exchange for a Stated Form of Discipline, the Panel concluded that you  
18 violated the Rules of Professional Conduct (“RPC”) and should be issued a Public Reprimand. This  
19 letter shall constitute a delivery of that reprimand.

20 On or about March 6, 2012, John Di Francesco and Bob Feron (hereinafter “clients”) retained  
21 the Law Offices of Brian C. Padgett to represent them in a lawsuit related to the Truckee River Flood  
22 Management Project. You were the primary attorney assigned to their case. RPC 1.2 (Scope of  
23 Representation and Allocation of Authority Between Client and Lawyer) states, in pertinent part, that a  
24 lawyer “shall abide by a client’s decision concerning the objectives of representation” and “shall  
25 consult with the client as to the means by which they are to be pursued. You failed to abide by your

1 clients' decisions to set the matter for trial and schedule depositions at the times requested by the  
2 clients. This type of ethical breach potentially caused injury to your clients.

3         RPC 1.3 (Diligence) states that a lawyer "shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in  
4 representing a client." Further, RPC 3.2 (Expediting Litigation) states that a lawyer "shall make  
5 reasonable efforts to expedite litigation consistent with the interests of the client." You failed to  
6 reschedule your clients' matter for trial prior to the expiration of the Five-Year Rule and failed to  
7 promptly file responsive pleadings. This type of ethical breach potentially caused injury to your  
8 clients.

9         RPC 1.4 (Communication) states, in pertinent part, that a lawyer shall "[k]eep the client  
10 reasonably informed about the status of a matter" and "explain a matter to the extent reasonably  
11 necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation." You failed to  
12 reasonably inform your clients of when pleadings would be filed and/or failed to inform them of  
13 whether any depositions would be scheduled and/or taken. This type of ethical breach caused injury to  
14 your clients.

15         Under ABA Standard 4.42, suspension is generally appropriate when a lawyer fails to perform  
16 services for a client, or engages in a pattern of neglect, and causes injury or potential injury to a client.  
17 You neglectfully failed to perform certain services for your clients' case. Although it was shown that  
18 you believed you had an agreement wherein opposing counsel would not move to dismiss based on the  
19 Five-Year Rule, this was not sufficiently documented from the evidence presented. Based on your  
20 absence of a prior disciplinary record and dishonest/selfish motive, your cooperative attitude toward  
21 the instant proceedings, and your remorse for your actions, mitigation of your disciplinary sanction is  
22 appropriate.

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1           Accordingly, you are hereby REPRIMANDED for violating RPC 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, and 3.2. In  
2 addition, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 120(3), you are required to remit to the State Bar of Nevada  
3 the amount of \$1,500 *within 30 days* of this letter. I trust that this reprimand will serve as a reminder  
4 to you of your ethical obligations, and that no such problems will arise in the future.

5 DATED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

6  
7 *Katherine H. Lyon*

Katherine H. Lyon (Jan 26, 2021 09:19 PST)

8 Katherine H. Lyon, Esq.  
9 Hearing Panel Chair  
Northern Nevada Disciplinary Board

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