

**ATTORNEY GRIEVANCE COMMISSION
OF MARYLAND**

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ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
410-260-3650

August 27, 2013

KENDALL R. RUFFATTO, ESQUIRE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Christopher Broughton Shedlick, Esquire
6408-R Seven Corners Place
Falls Church, VA 22044

RE: BC Docket No. 2013-290-00-3
Bar Counsel

Dear Mr. Shedlick:

The Attorney Grievance Commission, at its meeting on August 21, 2013, approved the proposed Reprimand agreed upon by you and Bar Counsel and directed that Bar Counsel administer this letter of reprimand to you.

This matter is a reciprocal action based on a public reprimand with terms issued to the Respondent, Christopher Broughton Shedlick, by the Virginia State Bar on or about May 2, 2009. Prior to further proceedings, in accordance with Maryland Rule 16-737, Bar Counsel and Respondent have agreed to submit the following Proposed Reprimand for the consideration of the Attorney Grievance Commission:

1. During times relevant to this matter, Respondent maintained an office for the practice of law in Falls Church, Virginia. Respondent does not maintain an office for the practice of law in Maryland.
2. In October 2002, the Respondent formed the law firm of "C. Broughton Shedlick and Associates." The Respondent utilized letterhead and business cards identifying his firm as "C. Broughton Shedlick and Associates" and held himself out to the public in this way during times when he was actually practicing as a sole practitioner and had no associates in his office.
3. In August 2003, Respondent signed a lease to rent the office space located at 6408-R Seven Corners Place, Falls Church, Virginia. The tenant from whom the Respondent took this office space was Paul C. Walsh, a disbarred Virginia attorney whose license to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia was revoked on August 23, 2002.

4. Nancy Nguyen Bowyer (hereafter Ms. Bowyer), a non-lawyer, worked for Mr. Walsh as his office manager from 1994 until his disbarment. Ms. Bowyer is Vietnamese, and had extensive contacts in the Vietnamese community. Mr. Walsh's practice focused on the representation of Vietnamese clients brought to his office by Ms. Bowyer in personal injury matters. -

5. Following Mr. Walsh's disbarment, in August 2002, his practice and the office space located at 6408-R Seven Corners Place were first taken over by another attorney, Michael Strong. Ms. Bowyer then began working for Mr. Strong as office manager. Respondent also worked for Mr. Strong as an independent contract attorney.

6. In August 2003, following Mr. Strong's departure from the office space at 6408-R Seven Corners Place, the Respondent took over both the practice and the office space. Ms. Bowyer then began working for the Respondent as his office manager. Ms. Bowyer also performed marketing services for the firm.

7. Following Respondent's takeover of Mr. Strong's practice and the office space, the Respondent began representing Vietnamese clients in personal injury cases brought to the office by Ms. Bowyer.

8. Following his takeover of Mr. Strong's practice and office space, the Respondent began using the telephone number originally utilized by Mr. Walsh.

9. Following his takeover of Mr. Strong's practice and office space, the Respondent began placing advertisements targeting the Vietnamese community. These advertisements referenced the telephone number listed in the name of Mr. Walsh and included photographs of Mr. Walsh. Photographs of Mr. Walsh were also displayed in Respondent's office.

10. The advertisements were prepared by Ms. Bowyer, who continued to use Mr. Walsh's likeness therein because the Vietnamese community was familiar with Mr. Walsh. The Respondent was fully aware of the content of these advertisements, but did not instruct Ms. Bowyer to discontinue the use of likeness of Mr. Walsh or to otherwise change the advertisements until 2005.

11. In addition to her salary, Respondent compensated Ms. Bowyer by paying a "bonus" on personal injury cases. This "bonus" was calculated, at least in part, based upon the amount of the settlement of the individual personal injury cases.

12. During the times pertinent to this matter, Ms. Bowyer was the primary point of contact with the Respondent's Vietnamese clients, most of whom did not speak English. Ms. Bowyer conducted client interviews, negotiated with health care providers to reduce their liens, calculated the settlement disbursements the clients were to receive, prepared settlement statements, and made out and signed settlement checks. Ms. Bowyer also assigned new personal injury and other types of cases brought to the Respondent's firm by her to the Respondent and various independent contractor attorneys affiliated with the Respondent's firm. Ms. Bowyer made the decision as to which attorney would handle which case. Ms. Bowyer carried out these and other substantive tasks without the level of supervision by the Respondent required under the applicable Rules of Professional Conduct.

13. As a result of the disciplinary action brought in the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Respondent took steps to insure that, at all times, he exercises appropriate oversight over all of Ms. Bowyer's contact with his clients and exercises appropriate oversight over Ms. Bowyer and all his non-lawyer employees in the conduct of all their duties.

14. The Respondent now utilizes letterhead and business cards which are completely accurate and do not have even the potential of being misleading.

15. The Respondent is now solely responsible for and conducts monthly and quarterly reconciliations of his law firm trust account and only he holds signatory authority over the account.

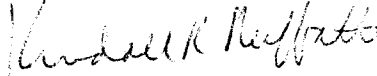
16. Respondent removed all likenesses of and references to Mr. Walsh from his advertisements and his law office and certifies that he will not, in the future, utilize either Mr. Walsh's name or likeness in any advertisement or in his law office.

17. The Respondent certifies that Ms. Bowyer's compensation is based solely upon an agreed-upon salary, and that any bonuses she or other law firm employees may be paid are based upon the total income of the firm and not calculated based upon monetary settlements and/or value of any particular case.

18. The conduct described above, violated Maryland Lawyers' Rules of Professional Conduct 5.3(a)(b) & (c), 5.4(a), 5.5(a), 7.1(a) & (b), and 7.5(a) & (d). The Respondent is reprimanded for that conduct.

The Maryland Rules provide that a reprimand constitutes discipline which is public and open to inspection.

Very truly yours,



Kendall R. Ruffatto
Executive Secretary

KRR:jfc

cc: Dolores O. Ridgell, Esquire

CERTIFIED – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED