

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS
BOARD ON PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**



In the Matter of :

MICHAEL ALEXEI, ESQUIRE :

: Disciplinary Docket No. 2017-D179

A Member of the Bar of the :
District of Columbia Court of Appeals. :

Bar Number: 999055 :

Date of Admission: February 7, 2011 :
:

SPECIFICATION OF CHARGES

The disciplinary proceedings instituted by this petition are based upon conduct that violates the standards governing the practice of law in the District of Columbia as prescribed by D.C. Bar R. X and XI, §2(b).

Jurisdiction for this disciplinary proceeding is prescribed by D.C. Bar R. XI. Pursuant to D.C. Bar R. XI, §1(a), jurisdiction is found because:

1. Respondent is a member of the Bar of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, having been admitted on February 7, 2011, and assigned Bar number 999055.

The facts giving rise to the charges of misconduct are as follows:

2. Beginning in 2011 through 2017, Maritza Mogro Tejerina retained Respondent in her immigration case, to assist her with adjusting status in the United States.

3. On June 27, 2017, Respondent filed his “Attorney’s Withdrawal Notice” with USCIS and disclosed confidences or secrets of the client.

4. Respondent’s conduct violated the following District of Columbia Rules of Professional Conduct:

a. Rules 1.6(a), in that Respondent revealed a confidence or secret of a client.

Respectfully submitted,

Hamilton P. Fox, III

Hamilton P. Fox, III
Disciplinary Counsel

Caroll Donayre Somoza

Caroll Donayre Somoza
Assistant Disciplinary Counsel

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VERIFICATION

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that I verily believe the facts stated in the Specification of Charges to be true and correct. Executed on this 22nd day of July 2021.

Caroll Donayre Somoza

Caroll Donayre Somoza
Assistant Disciplinary Counsel

(1) **Referral to Hearing Committee** – When the Board receives the Petition Instituting Formal Disciplinary Proceedings, the Board shall refer it to a Hearing Committee.

(2) **Filing Answer** – Respondent must respond to the Specification of Charges by filing an answer with the Board and by serving a copy on the Office of Disciplinary Counsel within 20 days of the date of service of this Petition, unless the time is extended by the Chair of the Hearing Committee. Permission to file an answer after the 20-day period may be granted by the Chair of the Hearing Committee if the failure to file an answer was attributable to mistake, inadvertence, surprise, or excusable neglect. If a limiting date occurs on a Saturday, Sunday, or official holiday in the District of Columbia, the time for submission will be extended to the next business day. Any motion to extend the time to file an answer, and/or any other motion filed with the Board or Hearing Committee Chair, must be served on the Office of Disciplinary Counsel at the address shown on the last page of this petition.

(3) **Content of Answer** – The answer may be a denial, a statement in exculpation, or a statement in mitigation of the alleged misconduct. Any charges not answered by Respondent may be deemed established as provided in Board Rule 7.7.

(4) **Mitigation** – Respondent has the right to present evidence in mitigation to the Hearing Committee regardless of whether the substantive allegations of the Specification of Charges are admitted or denied.

(5) **Process** – Respondent is entitled to fifteen days’ notice of the time and place of hearing, to be represented by counsel, to cross-examine witnesses, and to present evidence.

E. In addition to the procedures contained in D.C. Bar R. XI, the Board has promulgated Board Rules relating to procedures and the admission of evidence which are applicable to these procedures. A copy of these rules is being provided to Respondent with a copy of this Petition.

WHEREFORE, the Office of Disciplinary Counsel requests that the Board consider whether the conduct of Respondent violated the District of Columbia Rules of Professional Conduct, and, if so, that it impose/recommend appropriate discipline.

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