



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

STATEWIDE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

Michael P. Bowler, *Statewide Bar Counsel*

287 Main Street
Second Floor – Suite Two
East Hartford, CT 06118-1885
(860) 568-5157 Fax (860) 568-4953
Judicial Branch Website: www.jud.state.ct.gov

Attorney Mark A. Dubois
Chief Disciplinary Counsel
Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel
100 Washington Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Attorney Peter W. Shafran
Law Offices of Peter W. Shafran
733 Summer Street – Suite 203
Stamford, CT 06901

RE: Grievance Complaint #05-0885, Hall v. Shafran

Dear Chief Disciplinary Counsel and Respondent:

Pursuant to Practice Book §2-82(b), the undersigned, duly-appointed reviewing committee of the Statewide Grievance Committee, has reviewed the *Conditional Admission and Agreement as to Discipline* (hereinafter “Conditional Admission”) filed May 4, 2006 and submitted for approval in the above referenced matter. After careful consideration of the *Conditional Admission*, the Affidavit of the Respondent submitted pursuant to Practice Book §2-82(c) and the entire record, and after conducting a hearing pursuant to Practice Book §2-82(b) on June 7, 2006, the undersigned hereby APPROVE the *Conditional Admission*, a copy of which is attached hereto together with the *Affidavit* of the Respondent. Accordingly, the disposition agreed to by the Chief Disciplinary Counsel and the Respondent in the above referenced matter and set forth in the *Conditional Admission* is hereby made an order of this reviewing committee. The Respondent is ordered to pay restitution to the Complainant in the amount of \$7,500.

So ordered.

(4)

(jf)

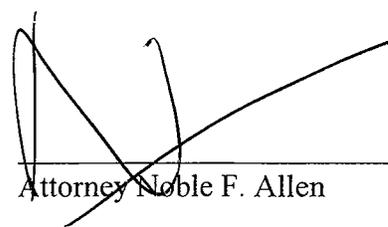
cc: Mr. Keith Hall
Attorney Stephen J. Conover

DECISION DATE: 7.17.06

Grievance Complaint #05-0385

Decision

Page 2



Attorney Noble F. Allen

Grievance Complaint #05-035

Decision

Page 3

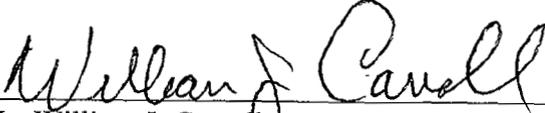


Attorney Howard M. Gould

Grievance Complaint #05-0085

Decision

Page 4


Mr. William J. Carroll

STATEWIDE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

GRIEVANCE COMPLAINT NO. 05-0885

KEITH HALL
Complainant

v.

PETER W. SHAFRAN
Respondent

CONDITIONAL ADMISSION AND AGREEMENT AS TO DISPOSITION

Pursuant to Practice Book § 2-82, the undersigned Respondent and Disciplinary Counsel stipulate and agree as follows:

1. This matter was instituted by grievance complaint filed by Keith Hall on September 16, 2005.
2. On January 6, 2006, the Stamford/Norwalk Judicial District Grievance Panel found probable cause that Attorney Shafran violated the following Connecticut Rules of Professional Conduct in the course of representing Mr. Hall, his client:
 - Rule 1.3 (Diligence): Failing to diligently represent Keith Hall while handling the probate of the Mr. Hall's deceased wife.
 - Rule 1.4 (Communication): Failing to respond to Mr. Hall's telephone calls and letters, and failing to keep the client reasonably informed of the events regarding the probate of the estate.
 - Rule 1.15 (Safekeeping Property): Conflating the payment of creditors' claims, his own attorney's fees, and the sale of the estate's house, and accepting and withholding a payment received on behalf of the estate after representation had been terminated by Mr. Hall.
 - Rule 1.16 (Terminating Representation): Failing to cooperate with client once representation was ended and failing to turn over estate funds received after representation had terminated.

In addition, the Panel found that Attorney Shafran violated Practice Book § 2-32(a)(1) by failing to respond to the grievance complaint.

Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel
100 Washington St.
Hartford, CT 06106
Tel: 860-706-5055 Fax: 860-706-5063

3. Attorney Shafran has tendered a conditional admission of fact in accordance with his affidavit attached hereto, admitting that he violated the Rules of Professional Conduct with respect to Rule 1.4.
4. This grievance arose as the result of Attorney Shafran's having agreed to handle a probate for the Complainant, Mr. Hall, after the death of his wife, Carol Hall.
5. Attorney Shafran and Disciplinary Counsel agree that Disciplinary Counsel would be able to present evidence that Attorney Shafran did not adequately communicate with Mr. Hall during the time period in which Attorney Shafran was handling the probate of Carol Hall's estate. More particularly, Attorney Shafran did not keep Mr. Hall apprised of the status of the probate matter, did not timely return phone calls to Mr. Hall, and did not provide Mr. Hall with sufficient information about ongoing activities in the probate court so that Mr. Hall could make informed decisions about the probate matter and about Attorney Shafran's conduct. Attorney Shafran's conduct violates Rule 1.4 (Communication).
6. Disciplinary Counsel has agreed to recommend that Attorney Shafran be ordered by the Statewide Grievance Committee to pay restitution to Mr. Hall in the amount of \$7,500.00, \$2,500 of this amount to be paid on the date this agreement is signed, and the remaining \$5,000 to be paid by June 30, 2006.
7. Disciplinary Counsel and Attorney Shafran have further agreed that both Attorney Shafran and his legal staff will participate in CLE courses in probate law and legal ethics to be completed within four months of the date this agreement is approved. Each course must be at least three hours long. Further, Attorney Shafran shall be required to obtain the services of a legal management consultant within four months of the date this agreement is approved to consult with Attorney Shafran on how to improve his law practice management procedures to ensure that he is appropriately and timely responding to client inquiries and meeting deadlines related to the legal matters he is handling. Attorney Shafran must submit an affidavit to Disciplinary Counsel confirming he and his staff have completed the required CLE courses within 45 days of taking such courses. Similarly, Attorney Shafran must submit an affidavit confirming his retention of a legal management consultant with 45 days of that retention.
8. Mr. Hall has been advised of this Conditional Admission and Affidavit, and will be afforded an opportunity to be heard on the issue of discipline before the Committee.

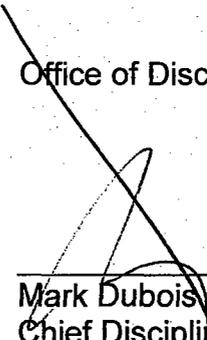
Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel
100 Washington St.
Hartford, CT 06106
Tel: 860-706-5055 Fax: 860-706-5063

WHEREFORE, this matter is submitted to this Committee for the imposition of appropriate disposition in accordance with Practice Book § 2-82 (a).

~~Office of Disciplinary Counsel~~

4/27/04
Date

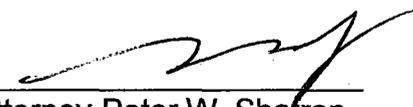
By:



Mark Dubois
Chief Disciplinary Counsel

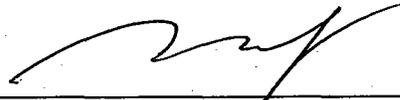
By: Respondent

4/24/06
Date



Attorney Peter W. Shafran

8. I agree to obtain the services of a legal management consultant within four months of the date this affidavit is approved. This consultant will be retained to advise me on how to improve my law practice management procedures to ensure that I appropriately and timely respond to client inquiries and meet deadlines related to the legal matters I am handling. I agree to submit an affidavit confirming this retention of a legal management consultant with 45 days of that retention.



ATTORNEY PETER W. SHAFRAN

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this 24th day of April, 2006.



~~Notary Public~~ Laura C. DellaJacono
Commissioner of the Superior Court