



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

STATEWIDE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

Michael P. Bowler, *Statewide Bar Counsel*

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Judicial Branch Website: www.jud.ct.gov

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

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

RE: Grievance Complaint #05-0919, Jared R. Knapp v. Peter W. 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 March 1, 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 of the complaint, and after conducting a hearing pursuant to Practice Book §2-82(b) on March 1, 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 reprimanded and ordered to pay restitution to the Complainant in the amount of \$701.56.

Reviewing Committee member Mr. William J. Carroll was not available for the March 1, 2006 hearing. The Chief Disciplinary Counsel and the Respondent waived the participation of Mr. Carroll in the consideration and decision of the *Conditional Admission*. Accordingly, the matter was considered and decided by the undersigned.

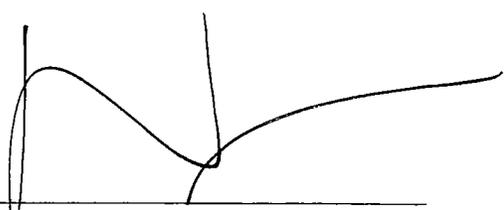
So ordered.

cc: Mr. Jared R. Knapp
Attorney Stephen J. Conover

DECISION DATE: 4/13/06

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(jf)

Grievance Complaint #05-0919
Decision
Page 2



Attorney Noble F. Allen



Attorney Howard M. Gould

STATEWIDE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

GRIEVANCE COMPLAINT NO. 05-0919

JARED R. KNAPP
Complainant

v.

PETER W. SHAFRAN
Respondent

CONDITIONAL ADMISSION AND AGREEMENT AS TO DISCIPLINE

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 the Complainant on October 4, 2005.
2. On January 6, 2006, the Stamford/Norwalk Judicial District Grievance Panel found probable cause that the Respondent violated the following Connecticut Rules of Professional Conduct in the course of representing Mr. Knapp and their mutual client:
 - Rule 1.3 (Diligence): Failing to diligently represent the Complainant's client.
 - Rule 1.4 (Communication): Failing to respond to Complainant's telephone calls and letters, and failing to keep the client reasonably informed of his work.
 - Rule 1.16 (Terminating Representation): Failing to cooperate with client once representation was ended and failing to return retainer.
 - Rule 3.2 (Expediting Litigation): Failing to pursue the client's claim.
 - Rule 8.4(3) (Misconduct involving Misrepresentation): Misrepresentations by Respondent's staff.
 - Rule 8.4(4) (Misconduct prejudicial to the administration of justice): Failure to file lawsuit.

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

3. The Respondent 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 Rules 1.3, 1.4, 1.16, 3.2, 8.4(3), and 8.4(4).

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4. This grievance arose as the result of the Respondent's having agreed in December 2004 to represent for the Complainant a mutual client in the collection of an unpaid debt owed by a debtor in Connecticut.
5. In December 2004, Respondent accepted from Complainant Respondent's requested retainer of \$701.56 and underlying documents related to the debt collection. Respondent did not pursue the client's claim and then failed to respond to Complainant's inquiries about the status of Respondent's work.
6. On August 31, 2005, Respondent's staff informed Complainant that a lawsuit was pending for their mutual client. On September 23, 2005, Complainant's independent research revealed no such lawsuit had been started. That same day, Complainant demanded return of his documentation and retainer fee but has not received them back from Respondent.
7. The Respondent violated Rule 1.3. (Diligence) in failing diligently to represent the Complainant's client.
8. The Respondent violated Rule 1.4 (Communication) in failing to return the Complainant's phone calls, respond to letters, or otherwise contact him to advise him as to the status of his case.
9. The Respondent violated Rule 1.16(d) (Terminating Representation) by failing to cooperate with the Complainant once representation was ended, including failing to return the Complainant's documents or the unearned portion of the retainer.
10. The Respondent violated Rule 3.2 (Expediting Litigation) by failing to make reasonable efforts to expedite litigation consistent with the interests of the client in the debt-collection effort.
11. The Respondent violated Rule 8.1(2) by failing to respond to the grievance complaint.
12. The Respondent violated Rule 8.4(3) when his staff made false representations that a lawsuit had been filed in Connecticut Superior Court.
13. The Respondent violated Rule 8.4(4) when he failed to file a lawsuit on the client's behalf, an omission constituting conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice.
14. The Respondent has been admitted to practice in Connecticut since November 1984.

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15. Disciplinary Counsel has agreed to recommend that Attorney Shafran be reprimanded by the Statewide Grievance Committee and ordered to pay restitution to the Complainant in the amount of \$701.56.
16. The Complainant 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 court.

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

Office of Disciplinary Counsel

3/1/24

Date

By:

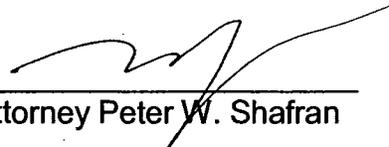


Mark Dubois
Chief Disciplinary Counsel

By: Respondent

3/1/24

Date



Attorney Peter W. Shafran

AFFIDAVIT OF RESPONDENT

STATE OF CONNECTICUT)

ss.

COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD)

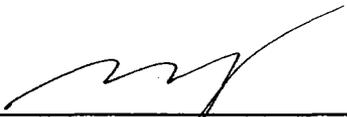
I am over the age of 18 and believe in the obligation of an oath. Pursuant to Practice Book §2-82, I make the following affidavit:

1. The Conditional Admission and agreement as to Discipline attached hereto and made a part hereof are voluntarily submitted.
2. I herein consent to the submission of this matter to the Superior Court for the imposition of discipline pursuant to Connecticut Practice Book §2-82(a).
3. I am aware that I have a right to a full hearing on this matter with the assistance of an attorney and I waive that right by entering into this agreement.
4. I have been neither subject to coercion nor duress and I am fully aware of the implications of this Affidavit and Conditional Admission and Agreement as to Discipline.
5. I am aware of the current proceeding regarding my violation of Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (Diligence), 1.4 (Communication), 1.16 (Termination of Representation), 3.2 (Expediting Litigation), and 8.4 (Misconduct involving misrepresentation and misconduct prejudicial to the administration of justice) as they specifically relate to my representation of Mr. Knapp and his client.
6. I agree that I violated Rule 1.3 (Diligence) in that I failed diligently to pursue the debt collection on behalf of Mr. Knapp's client.
7. I agree that I violated Rule 1.4 (Communication) in that I failed to return Mr. Knapp's phone calls and letters, or otherwise contact him regarding the status of his case.
8. I agree that I violated Rule 1.16 (Termination of Representation) in that I failed to return Mr. Knapp's documents or the unearned portion of the \$701.56 retainer.
9. I agree that I violated Rules 3.1, 3.2, and 8.4(4) in that I failed to file a lawsuit

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in the debt collection matter on behalf of Mr. Knapp's client.

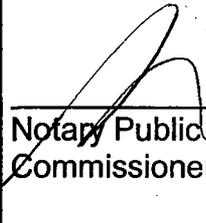
10. I agree that I violated rule 8.4(3) in that my staff misrepresented the status of my work and the existence of a lawsuit to Mr. Knapp.
11. I agree and understand that the Disciplinary Counsel is recommending that I be reprimanded by the Statewide Grievance Committee and that I return to Mr. Knapp the \$701.56 in fees he paid to me.



ATTORNEY PETER W. SHAFRAN

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this 1 day of March, 2006.



Notary Public
Commissioner of the Superior Court

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