

STATEWIDE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

Phyllis Blount
Complainant

:

vs.

:

Grievance Complaint #08-0972

Sharon A. Jenkins
Respondent

:

DECISION

Pursuant to Practice Book §2-35, the undersigned, duly-appointed reviewing committee of the Statewide Grievance Committee, conducted a hearing at the Superior Court, 300 Grand Street, Waterbury, Connecticut on April 7, 2009. The hearing addressed the record of the complaint filed on October 3, 2008, and the probable cause determination filed by the Fairfield Judicial District Grievance Panel on December 5, 2008, finding that there existed probable cause that the Respondent violated Rule 1.4(a) of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

Notice of the hearing was mailed to the Complainant, to the Respondent and to the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel on March 5, 2009. Pursuant to Practice Book §2-35(d), Assistant Disciplinary Counsel Beth Baldwin pursued the matter before this reviewing committee. The Complainant appeared and testified. The Respondent appeared at the hearing and testified. The hearing in this matter was consolidated with the hearing in Blount v. Skyers, #08-0971.

This reviewing committee finds the following facts by clear and convincing evidence:

The Complainant retained the Respondent's law firm in 2007 regarding a small claims matter. The Respondent handled the matter for her firm. The Complainant had difficulty communicating with the Respondent, but obtained a default judgment in March of 2008. The Notice of Judgment stated that the judgment was to be paid by May 1, 2008. The Respondent did not communicate with the Complainant after receipt of the default judgment. The Respondent did not return a number of telephone calls from the Complainant after May 1, 2008 inquiring as to the status of the matter. The Respondent did not respond to a certified letter from the Complainant dated May 15, 2008 outlining her problems communicating with the Respondent's law firm and seeking a prompt response. Rather, the Respondent treated the letter as a discharge letter due to language in the letter that the Complainant would seek other remedies. The Respondent closed the Complainant's file on or about May 28, 2008; the Respondent neither updated the Complainant as to the status of the matter nor notified the Complainant that the file was being closed.

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This reviewing committee also considered the following:

The Respondent acknowledged that her communication with the Complainant should have been better. She apologized to the Complainant.

This reviewing committee concludes by clear and convincing evidence that the Respondent violated the Rules of Professional Conduct. The Respondent neither kept the Complainant reasonably informed about the status of the matter, nor responded to reasonable requests for information, in violation of Rule 1.4(a)(3) and (a)(4), respectively. It is the order of this reviewing committee that the Respondent attend, at her own expense, a continuing legal education ("CLE") course in legal ethics. The CLE course is to consist of a minimum of three credit hours and is to be taken within nine months of the issuance of this decision. The Respondent is further ordered to provide the Statewide Grievance Committee with written confirmation of her compliance with this condition within thirty days of completion of the CLE course.

(8)

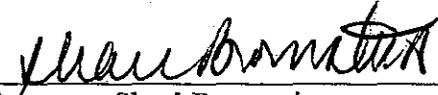
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DECISION DATE: 7/21/09

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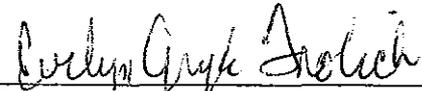


Attorney Shari Bornstein

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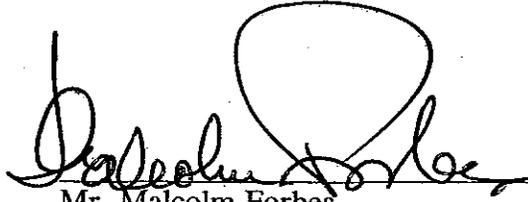


Attorney Evelyn Gryk Frolich

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Mr. Malcolm Forbes