

STATEWIDE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

New London JD Grievance Panel
Complainant

vs.

Albert Speziali
Respondent

Grievance Complaint #08-0069

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, 80 Washington Street, Hartford, Connecticut on June 12, 2008. The hearing addressed the record of the complaint filed on January 24, 2008 and the probable cause determination filed by the New Haven Judicial District Grievance Panel for the towns of Bethany, New Haven and Woodbridge on April 8, 2008, finding that there existed probable cause that the Respondent violated Rules 8.1(2), 8.4(1) and 8.4(4) of the Rules of Professional Conduct and Practice Book §§2-27(d), 2-32(a)(1) and 2-82.

Notice of the hearing was mailed to the Complainant, to the Respondent and to the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel on May 1, 2008. Pursuant to Practice Book §2-35(d), Assistant Disciplinary Counsel Beth C. Cvejanovich pursued the matter before this reviewing committee. The Respondent did not appear at the hearing.

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

Pursuant to the terms of an Admission of Misconduct Agreement entered into pursuant to Practice Book §2-82 (hereinafter, "Practice Book §2-82 Agreement") and the Respondent's affidavit, filed in Grievance Complaint #06-1086 Lagrandeur v. Speziali, the Respondent agreed to refund \$7,700 of the fees charged his former client, Shawn Lagrandeur. The Practice Book §2-82 Agreement was approved by the reviewing committee in its decision dated May 24, 2007 in Lagrandeur v. Speziali. The Respondent paid \$5,000 to Mr. Lagrandeur but thereafter failed to pay the \$2,700 outstanding balance.

The Respondent failed to file an answer to this grievance complaint. The Respondent has not filed a current attorney registration form with the Statewide Grievance Committee.

This reviewing committee finds the following violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct and the Practice Book by clear and convincing evidence:

The Respondent engaged in conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice in violation of Rules 8.4(1) and 8.4(4) of the Rules of Professional Conduct, by failing to pay Mr. Lagrandeur the \$2,700 outstanding balance in compliance with the Respondent's Practice Book §2-82

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Agreement. The Respondent failed to file an answer to the grievance complaint in violation of Rule 8.1(2) of the Rules of Professional Conduct and Practice Book §2-32(a) (1). The Respondent failed to register with the Statewide Grievance Committee in violation of Practice Book §2-27(d).

This reviewing committee concludes that the record lacks clear and convincing evidence with regard to the probable cause finding that the Respondent did not respond to a request for information from a Grievance Panel. This reviewing committee further concludes that Practice Book §2-82 does not provide a disciplinary provision. Therefore, we do not find that a violation of Practice Book §2-82.

Since we conclude that the Respondent violated the Rules of Professional Conduct and the Practice Book and in consideration of the seriousness of the misconduct, we direct the Disciplinary Counsel to file a presentment against the Respondent in the Superior Court.

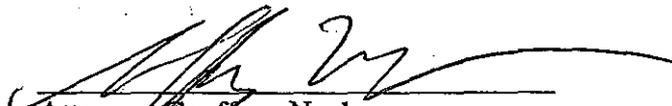
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Attorney Geoffrey Naab

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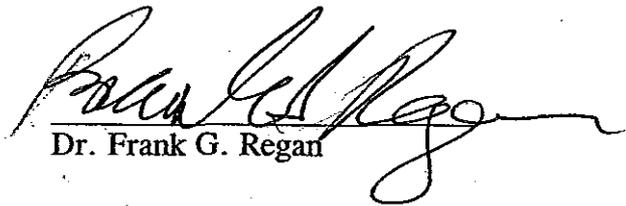


Attorney Tracie Molinaro

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Dr. Frank G. Regan