

STATEWIDE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

Mark A. Dubois
Complainant

vs.

Grievance Complaint #10-0496

Bertran Bosmans
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, 1061 Main Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut on October 6, 2010. The hearing addressed the record of the complaint filed on June 8, 2010 and the probable cause determination filed by the Litchfield Judicial District Grievance Panel on July 23, 2010, finding that there existed probable cause that the Respondent violated Rule 8.4(4) of the Rules of Professional Conduct and Practice Book §2-32(a)(1).

Notice of the hearing was mailed to the Complainant, to the Respondent and to the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel on August 30, 2010. Pursuant to Practice Book §2-35(d), Assistant Disciplinary Counsel Suzanne Sutton pursued the matter before this reviewing committee. The Respondent did not appear at the hearing.

Reviewing committee member, Attorney Thomas F. Maxwell, Jr. was unavailable for the hearing. Since the Assistant Disciplinary Counsel waived the participation of Attorney Maxwell, this matter was heard and decided by the undersigned.

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

The Respondent solicits legal business in Connecticut from Connecticut residents through an internet website (johnsonlawgroup.org) advertising various debt relief services, including debt settlement and bankruptcy. The Respondent is neither a Connecticut licensed debt negotiator nor an attorney admitted to practice in Connecticut.

Pursuant to Practice Book §2-32, a copy of a Notice of Assignment of Complaint dated June 10, 2010 and the subject grievance complaint was transmitted to the Respondent, by letter dated June 10, 2010. The June 10, 2010 letter informed the Respondent that Practice Book 2-32(a)(1) required him to respond to the grievance complaint within thirty days of the date of the notification letter. The Respondent did not file a response to the grievance complaint.

This reviewing committee concludes by clear and convincing evidence that the Respondent

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failed to file an answer to the grievance complaint in violation of Rule 8.4(4) of the Rules of Professional Conduct and Practice Book §2-32(a)(1). The Respondent's failure to respond to the grievance complaint reflects an apparent disregard of the disciplinary process. We direct the Disciplinary Counsel to file a presentment against the Respondent in the Superior Court for the imposition of whatever discipline the court deems appropriate. We note that Rule 8.5 of the Rules of Professional Conduct extends Connecticut's disciplinary authority to the Respondent.

This reviewing committee also finds by clear and convincing evidence that the Respondent engaged in the unauthorized practice of law in Connecticut in violation of Rules 5.5, 8.4(3) and 8.4(4) of the Rules of Professional Conduct, by soliciting legal business in Connecticut from Connecticut residents. The Respondent is not an attorney qualified to practice law in Connecticut. Since a presentment is a de novo proceeding, we further direct the Disciplinary Counsel to include the additional violations of Rules 5.5, 8.4(3) and 8.4(4) in the presentment.

(4)

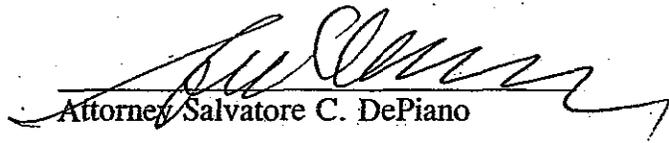
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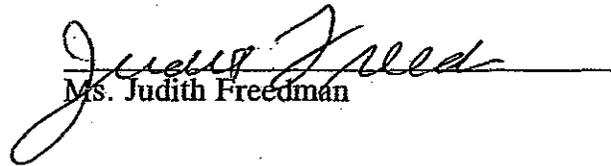
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Attorney Salvatore C. DePiano

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Ms. Judith Freedman