

STATE OF CONNECTICUT



Michael P. Bowler  
Statewide Bar Counsel

Frances Mickelson-Dera  
Christopher L. Slack  
First Assistant Bar Counsel

Tel: (860) 568-5157  
Fax: (860) 568-4953

**STATEWIDE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE**

[www.jud.ct.gov/sgc/](http://www.jud.ct.gov/sgc/)  
Second Floor - Suite Two  
287 Main Street, East Hartford, Connecticut 06118-1885

10/18/2011

OFFICE OF CHIEF DISCIPLINARY C  
100 WASHINGTON STREET  
HARTFORD CT 06106

JOHN XIONG WANG  
WANG & ASSOCIATES  
11 EAST BROADWAY  
SUITE 9C  
NEW YORK NY 10038

RE: GRIEVANCE COMPLAINT #11-0023  
JIN vs. WANG

Dear Respondent and Disciplinary Counsel:

Enclosed herewith is the decision of the reviewing committee of the Statewide Grievance Committee concerning the above referenced matter. In accordance with the Practice Book Sections 2-35, 2-36 and 2-38(a), the Respondent may, within thirty (30) days of the date of this notice, submit to the Statewide Grievance Committee a request for review of the decision.

A request for review must be sent to the Statewide Grievance Committee at the address listed above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M.P. Bowler".

Michael P. Bowler

Encl.

cc: Attorney Gail S. Kotowski  
Yinzhou Jin

STATEWIDE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

Yinzhou Jin  
Complainant

:

vs.

:

Grievance Complaint #11-0023

John X. Wang  
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, 235 Church Street, New Haven, Connecticut on August 3, 2011. The hearing addressed the record of the complaint filed on January 10, 2011, and the probable cause determination filed by the Litchfield Judicial District Grievance Panel on June 1, 2011, finding that there existed probable cause that the Respondent violated Rules 1.4 and 1.5(b) 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 June 29, 2011. Pursuant to Practice Book §2-35(d), Acting Chief Disciplinary Counsel Patricia A. King, pursued the matter before this reviewing committee. The Complainant did not appear at the hearing. The Respondent appeared and testified. One exhibit was admitted into evidence.

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

The Respondent represented the Complainant in connection with a pending application for political asylum. The Respondent did not provide the Complainant with a written fee agreement in connection with the representation. On January 27, 2010, the Respondent appeared in Immigration Court for the Complainant's master calendar hearing. After the hearing, the Respondent informed the Complainant that her individual hearing before the Immigration Court was scheduled for August 9, 2010. Shortly before the Complainant's individual hearing, the Complainant met with the Respondent to prepare for the hearing. The Respondent reviewed the Complainant's application for political asylum and documentation with the Complainant in the Mandarin Chinese language. At the immigration hearing on August 9, 2010, both the Complainant and the Complainant's witness, Xu Melilan, testified in Mandarin Chinese. After the hearing, the Court denied the Complainant's application for political asylum. The Respondent informed the Complainant that she had the right to appeal the decision.

This reviewing committee also considered the following:

The Complainant contended that her best language is Korean. The Complainant claimed that the Respondent never asked her what was her best language. The Complainant further claimed that she had difficulty communicating at her individual hearing before the Immigration Court because she had to testify in Mandarin Chinese. The Complainant claimed that her witness, whose best language is Korean, also had difficulty communicating in Chinese at the hearing.

The Respondent contended that he requested a Mandarin Chinese interpreter for the Complainant for her individual hearing before the Immigration Court, after confirming with the Complainant that "Mandarin Chinese was the language she speaks and understands the best." The Respondent testified that the Complainant's statement in support of her asylum application was written in Mandarin Chinese. The Respondent further testified that he communicated with the Complainant and the Complainant's witness in Mandarin Chinese with no difficulty. The Respondent testified that the Complainant did not appear to have any difficulty testifying in Mandarin Chinese at the individual hearing. The Respondent testified that he did not have a fee agreement with the Complainant because he was not hired at the time that the asylum application was filed.

This reviewing committee concludes by clear and convincing evidence that the Respondent engaged in unethical conduct in connection with his representation of the Complainant in an immigration proceeding. The Respondent failed to provide the Complainant with a written fee agreement in connection with the representation in violation of Rule 1.5(b) of the Rules of Professional Conduct. The fact that the Respondent's representation of the Complainant commenced after the application for political asylum was filed did not remove the requirement of Rule 1.5(b) to provide the client with a written fee agreement.

The record lacks clear and convincing evidence to substantiate a finding that the Respondent failed to adequately communicate with the Complainant in connection with the representation in violation of Rule 1.4 of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

Since this reviewing committee concludes that the Respondent engaged in unethical conduct, we order the Respondent to take, at his own expense a Continuing Legal Education ("CLE") course in legal ethics. The CLE course is to be attended in person unless the Respondent obtains pre-approval from the Statewide Grievance Committee to take the CLE course electronically or through some other means. The CLE course is to consist of a minimum of three (3) credit hours and is to be taken within nine (9) months of the issuance of this decision. The Respondent is further ordered to provide the Statewide Grievance Committee with written confirmation of his compliance with this condition within thirty (30) days of completion of the CLE course. The written confirmation should be in the form of a certificate of attendance or similar documentation from the course provider.

Grievance Complaint #11-0023  
Decision  
Page 3

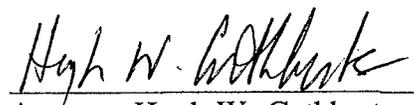
(4)  
jf

DECISION DATE: 10/18/11

Grievance Complaint #11-0023

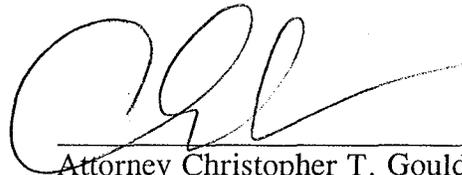
Decision

Page 4

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hugh W. Cuthbertson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Attorney Hugh W. Cuthbertson

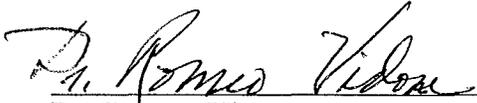
Grievance Complaint #11-0023  
Decision  
Page 5



---

Attorney Christopher T. Goulden

Grievance Complaint #11-0023  
Decision  
Page 6

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Romeo Vidone