

STATE OF CONNECTICUT



Michael P. Bowler
Statewide Bar Counsel

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STATEWIDE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

www.jud.ct.gov/sgc/
Second Floor - Suite Two
287 Main Street, East Hartford, Connecticut 06118-1885

02/25/2011

OFFICE OF CHIEF DISCIPLINARY C
100 WASHINGTON STREET
HARTFORD CT 06106

GERALD HECHT
HECHT & ASSOCIATES
DANBURY EXECUTIVE TOWER
30 MAIN ST. SUITE 202
DANBURY CT 06810

RE: GRIEVANCE COMPLAINT #10-0746
PAPARO vs. HECHT

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,

Michael P. Bowler

Encl.

cc: Attorney Gail S. Kotowski
COLLINS HANNAFIN GARAMELLA JAB
Monica Paparo



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

STATEWIDE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

Michael P. Bowler, *Statewide Bar Counsel*

287 Main Street
Second Floor – Suite Two
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Attorney Patricia A. King
First Assistant Disciplinary Counsel
100 Washington Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Attorney Gerald Hecht
Hecht & Associate
Danbury Executive Tower
30 Main Street, Suite 202
Danbury, CT 06810

RE: Grievance Complaint #10-0746, *Monica Paparo v. Gerald Hecht*

Dear First Assistant 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 *Proposed Disposition Pursuant to Practice Book §2-82(b)* (hereinafter "*Proposed Disposition*") filed February 1, 2011 and submitted for approval in the above referenced matter. After careful consideration of the *Proposed Disposition*, the *Affidavit* of the Respondent submitted pursuant to Practice Book §2-82(d) and the entire record, and after conducting a hearing pursuant to Practice Book §2-82(b) on February 1, 2011, the undersigned hereby APPROVE the *Proposed Disposition*, a copy of which is attached hereto together with the *Affidavit* of the Respondent. Accordingly, the disposition agreed to by the First Assistant Disciplinary Counsel and the Respondent in the above referenced matter and set forth in the *Proposed Disposition* is hereby made an order of this reviewing committee. The Respondent is ordered to attend in-person at his own expense a continuing legal education ("CLE") course in legal ethics. Online courses and materials only courses do not comply. The course must cover Connecticut law. The CLE course is to consist of a minimum of three (3) credit hours, and is to be taken within six (6) 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 30 days of completion of the CLE course.

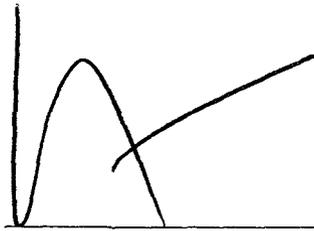
So ordered.

cc: Ms. Monica Paparo
Attorney Jack Garanella
Attorney Gail S. Kotowski

(4)
jf

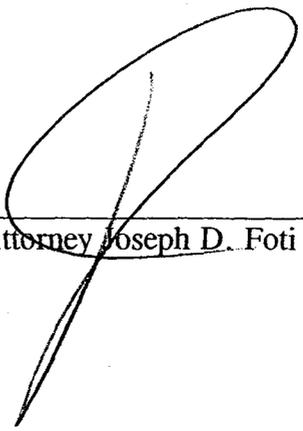
DECISION DATE: 2/25/11

Grievance Complaint #10-0746
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A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a vertical line on the left, a curved line that peaks and then descends, and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

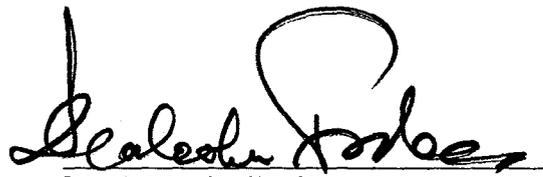
Attorney Noble F. Allen

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Attorney Joseph D. Foti

Grievance Complaint #10-0746
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Malcolm Forbes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent loop at the end.

Mr. Malcolm Forbes

STATEWIDE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

MONICA PAPARO
Complainant

GRIEVANCE COMPLAINT #
10-0746

v.

GERALD HECHT
Respondent

PROPOSED DISPOSITION PURSUANT TO PRACTICE BOOK § 2-82(b)

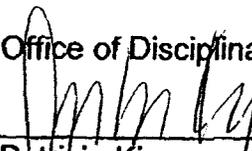
Pursuant to Practice Book § 2-82(b), and Practice Book § 2-82(a)(2), the undersigned Respondent and Disciplinary Counsel stipulate and agree as follows:

1. Gerald Hecht (hereinafter Respondent), juris number 100651, was admitted to the bar of the State of Connecticut on May 16, 1979 and has a disciplinary history of one reprimand in Kinsey v. Hecht, No. 99-0608, imposed on March 2, 2001.
2. The Respondent has registered with the Statewide Grievance Committee for 2010 and is currently in good standing.
3. This matter was instituted by grievance complaint dated August 27, 2010.
4. On October 7, 2010, the Danbury Judicial District Grievance Panel found probable cause that the Respondent violated Rules 7.1 and 8.4(4) of the Rules of Professional Conduct arising from his representation of the Complainant after she was referred to him after having qualified for pro bono legal assistance.
5. On November 19, 2010, a reviewing committee of the statewide grievance committee found additional probable cause that the Respondent violated Rules 7.1, 7.2(g), 1.5(a), and 1.5(b) of the Rules of Professional Conduct arising from his representation of the Complainant after she was referred to him after having qualified for pro bono legal assistance.
6. The Respondent has tendered an affidavit pursuant to Practice Book § 2-82(d) attached hereto, and acknowledges that his conduct constitutes a violation of 1.5(b) of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

7. The Respondent and the Disciplinary Counsel agree that the Respondent will consent to an order that he attend in-person and at his own expense a continuing legal education ("CLE") course in legal ethics, pursuant to Practice Book §2-37a)(5). Online courses and materials only courses do not comply. The course must cover Connecticut law. The CLE course is to consist of a minimum of 3 credit hours, and is to be taken within six months of the approval of this agreement. The Respondent will provide the Statewide Grievance Committee with written confirmation of his compliance with this condition within 30 days of completion of the CLE course.
8. Respondent and Disciplinary Counsel request that the reviewing committee take into consideration that the Respondent has withdrawn the lawsuit he filed against the Complainant in an attempt to collect a fee for his representation.
9. The Respondent understands that these orders constitute the imposition of discipline pursuant to Practice Book § 2-37(a).
10. The Respondent further understands that his failure to comply with all the terms of this/these conditions will result in the filing of a presentment pursuant to Practice Book § 2-37(c).
11. The Respondent and the Disciplinary Counsel agree that the Disciplinary Counsel will recommend that the Statewide Grievance Committee impose the sanction set forth in this agreement. If this agreement is rejected by the Statewide Grievance Committee, the Disciplinary Counsel will pursue this matter at a hearing before a different reviewing committee.

WHEREFORE, this matter is submitted to the Statewide Grievance Committee for its approval in accordance with Practice Book § 2-82(b).

1/31/11
Date

Office of Disciplinary Counsel,

By: Patricia King
Assistant Disciplinary Counsel

JAN. 25, 2011
Date

Respondent,

Attorney Jack Garamella
Respondent's Attorney

STATEWIDE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

MONICA PAPARO
Complainant

GRIEVANCE COMPLAINT #
10-0746

v.

GERALD HECHT
Respondent

AFFIDAVIT

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

1. The Proposed Disposition attached hereto and made a part hereof is voluntarily submitted.
2. I hereby consent to the form of disposition set out in the foregoing Proposed Disposition.
3. I am aware that I have a right to a full evidentiary 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 consequences of this Affidavit and Proposed Disposition.
5. I am aware of the current proceeding regarding my alleged violations of Rules 1.5(a), 1.5(b), 7.1, 7.2(g), and 8.4(4) of the Rules of Professional Conduct.
6. I acknowledge that I prepared a fee agreement seeking a contingent fee from the Complainant in a dissolution case, and that my conduct constituted a violation of Rule 1.5(b) of the Rules of Professional Conduct.
7. I agree to an order that I attend in-person and at my own expense a continuing legal education ("CLE") course in legal ethics, pursuant to Practice Book §2-37(a)(5). Online courses and materials only courses do not comply. The course must cover Connecticut law. The CLE course is to consist of a minimum of 3 credit hours, and is to be taken within six months of the approval of this agreement. I understand and agree that it is my obligation to provide the

