

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA
(Before a Grievance Committee)

THE FLORIDA BAR,

Complainant,

TFB File No. 2016-10,947 (6A)

v.

GEORGE COSTAS ANDRIOTIS,

Respondent.

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ADMISSION OF MINOR MISCONDUCT PURSUANT TO RULE 3-5.1

Respondent says:

1. I am aware that Rule 3-5.1 reads, in part, as follows:

If the respondent admits guilt of minor misconduct and the committee concurs, the grievance committee shall file its report recommending an admonishment, the manner of administration, the taxing of costs, and an assessment or administrative fee in the amount of \$1,250.00 against the respondent. The respondent may not condition the admission of minor misconduct on the method of administration of the admonishment or upon nonpayment of costs incurred in the proceedings. The report recommending an admonishment shall be forwarded to staff counsel for review and the designated reviewer for approval. If the report is thereafter approved, it shall then be served on the respondent by bar counsel and shall become final.

2. Pursuant to Rule 3-5.1, I tender this admission of minor misconduct in the above-referenced case.

3. If this admission is accepted by the committee and the committee report is approved by The Florida Bar, this admission shall be in full force and effect, and I shall pay any costs incurred in the proceeding including a \$1,250.00 administrative cost.

4. I am aware that the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar may order me to appear before it for administration of an admonishment.

5. If this admission is not accepted by the committee or an admonishment is not approved, this tendered admission will be null and void, and no part of the admission may be used as evidence bearing upon the complaint.

6. The following statement of particulars sets forth the minor misconduct and the rule violations which are hereby admitted:

Respondent represented a client in a personal injury matter wherein he submitted a demand on behalf of the client. An offer was made which the client rejected, and the client terminated the representation and thereafter retained Mr. Stathopoulos, who Respondent previously worked for, to handle the matter in May 2015. Respondent asserted a quantum merit lien for fees upon a settlement being reached in the matter in March 2016. Respondent did not provide requested proof in support of his fees claim and did not execute the settlement check to permit Mr. Stathopoulos to deposit the check in trust and hold the disputed amount of Respondent's attorney fee until the matter was resolved. Mr. Stathopoulos ultimately filed a motion and set a hearing to try to resolve Respondent's lien. Respondent made some disparaging remarks about Mr. Stathopoulos during communications regarding his fees claim. Respondent communicated directly with the client regarding the issue of his lien, advising the client to direct his lien be paid and he would then release those funds to the client, as he did not want Mr. Stathopoulos to benefit from additional fees. Respondent ultimately waived his fees claim immediately prior to the hearing set in May 2016. Respondent's conduct caused an unnecessary delay in the client's receipt of his net proceeds of the settlement.

Respondent admits by reason of the foregoing he has violated the following Rules Regulating The Florida Bar; 4-8.4(d) (Conduct in connection with the practice of law that is prejudicial to the administration of justice).

7. Respondent agrees to complete The Florida Bar's Ethics School and Professionalism Workshop within 6 months from the date of acceptance of this admission of Minor Misconduct, and be responsible for payment of these workshop fees.

Dated this 6th day of JUNE, 2017.


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