

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

THE FLORIDA BAR,

Complainant,

The Florida Bar File No.
2016-10,947 (6A)

v.

GEORGE COSTAS ANDRIOTIS,

Respondent.

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REPORT OF MINOR MISCONDUCT

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Pursuant to Rule 3-7.4(m) of The Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, the committee accepts Respondent's tendered admission of minor misconduct and recommends that Respondent receive an admonishment. Further, Respondent shall complete The Florida Bar's Ethics School and Professionalism Workshop within 6 months from July 6, 2017, the date of the committee's acceptance of the admission of minor misconduct. The admonishment should be administered by service of this Report.

I. SUMMARY OF MISCONDUCT AND RULE VIOLATIONS FOUND:

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's fees 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).

II. COMMENT ON MITIGATING, AGGRAVATING OR EVIDENTIARY

MATTERS: The committee believes that the following comment on mitigating, aggravating and evidentiary matters will be helpful in considering acceptance of the report: Respondent was admitted to practice on April 18, 2007, and has no prior disciplinary history, and is remorseful.

III. ADMONISHMENT: George Costas Andriotis, your actions have discredited the legal profession of the State of Florida. Such conduct cannot be tolerated by your fellow lawyers and should not be tolerated by you. Pride in your profession demands that you not violate the Rules of Professional Conduct again. If you do, your present misconduct will be considered in future disciplinary proceedings.

IV. COSTS: The cost of these proceedings is assessed against Respondent as follows:

Administrative Costs	\$1,250.00
TOTAL	\$1,250.00

Fees: The following program(s) are recommended and Respondent shall pay the fees of this matter which are:

Ethics School & Professionalism Workshop	\$1,000.00
TOTAL	\$1,000.00

Costs are due The Florida Bar within 30 days from acceptance of this minor misconduct recommendation.

Pursuant to Rule 1-3.6(c) of The Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, any person now or hereafter licensed to practice law in Florida shall be deemed a delinquent member if the member fails to pay the costs assessed in diversion or disciplinary cases within 30 days after the disciplinary decision or diversion recommendation becomes final, unless such time is extended by the board of governors for good cause shown. Delinquent members shall not engage in the practice of law in Florida nor be entitled to any privileges and benefits accorded to members of The Florida Bar in good standing.

V. COMMITTEE VOTE: A quorum consists of not less than 3 members of the committee being present, 2 of whom are lawyers. The committee, by affirmative vote of a majority, voted in favor of the recommendation as stated in Item I above. In accordance with Rule 3-7.4(g) of The Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, the committee reports the number of committee members voting for, or against, this report as follows:

In favor of the report 7

Against the report 0

Dated this 31st day of July, 2017.

Sixth Judicial Circuit
Grievance Committee "A"

BY 

Kelly Ann McKnight, Chair