

SUPREME COURT OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of a Member of the) Arizona Supreme Court
State Bar of Arizona) No. SB-16-0069-AP
)
CHARLES W. BASSETT,) Office of the Presiding
Attorney No. 23581) Disciplinary Judge
) No. PDJ20169084
Respondent.)
_____)

O R D E R

Pursuant to Rule 59, Rules of the Supreme Court, Charles W. Bassett filed a notice of appeal from the hearing panel's Decision and Order Imposing Sanctions. The briefing schedule for the appeal required Bassett to file his opening brief no later than April 13, 2017. Bassett has not filed an opening brief. Accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED dismissing Bassett's appeal. Pursuant to Rule 58(k), the decision of the hearing panel is final.

DATED this 2nd day of May, 2017.

_____/S/_____
ROBERT M. BRUTINEL
Duty Justice

TO:

Charles W Bassett

Hunter F Perlmeter

Amanda McQueen

Sandra Montoya

Maret Vessella

Beth Stephenson

Mary Pieper

Lexis Nexis

Don Lewis

Perry Thompson

Raziel Atienza

**BEFORE THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY
JUDGE**

IN THE MATTER OF A SUSPENDED MEMBER
OF THE STATE BAR OF ARIZONA,

**CHARLES W. BASSETT,
Bar No. 023581**

Respondent.

No. PDJ-2016-9084

**FINAL JUDGMENT AND ORDER
OF DISBARMENT**

[State Bar Nos. 16-0076, 16-0558,
16-1017]

FILED DECEMBER 14, 2016

This matter was heard by the Hearing Panel, which rendered its Decision and Order on November 17, 2016. Mr. Bassett filed a notice of appeal on December 2, 2016, but did not request a stay.

Now Therefore,

IT IS ORDERED Respondent, **CHARLES W. BASSETT, Bar No. 023581**, is disbarred from the State Bar of Arizona and his name is stricken from the roll of lawyers effective November 17, 2016, as set forth in the Hearing Panel's Decision and Order Imposing Sanctions. Mr. Bassett is no longer entitled to the rights and privileges of a lawyer but remains subject to the jurisdiction of the Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED Mr. Bassett shall immediately comply with the requirements relating to notification of clients and others, and provide and/or file all notices and affidavits required by Rule 72, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED Mr. Bassett shall pay restitution with interest at the legal rate to the following individuals in the following amounts:

\$4,000 to Complainant Jeffrey Miller in Count I; and

\$2,000 to Complainant Nicole Kearn in Count II.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, assessment of costs and expenses under Rule 60(b)(1)(B), will abide the final order of the Supreme Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED vacating the interim suspension order filed in PDJ-2016-9047 as a result of this judgment.

DATED this 14th day of December, 2016.

William J. O'Neil
Presiding Disciplinary Judge

COPY of the foregoing e-mailed/mailed
this 14th day of December, 2016, to:

Hunter F. Perlmeter
State Bar of Arizona
4201 N. 24th Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85016-6266
Email: lro@staff.azbar.org

Charles W. Bassett
The Bassett Law Firm, PLLC
2222 S. Dobson Road, Suite 1104
Mesa, AZ 85202-6201
Email: charles@azbassettlaw.com
Respondent

and alternative address:

Charles W. Bassett
4868 E. Karsten Drive
Chandler, AZ 85249
Respondent

by: AMcQueen

**BEFORE THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY
JUDGE**

IN THE MATTER OF A SUSPENDED
MEMBER OF THE STATE BAR OF ARIZONA,

**CHARLES W. BASSETT,
Bar No. 023581**

Respondent.

PDJ 2016-9084

**DECISION AND ORDER IMPOSING
SANCTIONS**

[State Bar Nos. 16-0076, 16-0558 &
16-1017]

FILED NOVEMBER 17, 2016

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The State Bar of Arizona ("SBA") filed its complaint on September 6, 2016. On September 8, 2016, the complaint was served on Respondent, Charles W. Bassett, by certified, delivery restricted mail, and by regular first class mail, pursuant to Rules 47(c) and 58(a) (2), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct. The Probable Cause Order was issued in Count One on August 30, 2016. [Exhibit 19]. The Presiding Disciplinary Judge ("PDJ") was assigned to the matter. A notice of default issued on October 4, 2016, due to Mr. Bassett's failure to file an answer or otherwise defend. Mr. Bassett did not remedy his failure, and default was effective on October 25, 2016, at which time a notice of aggravation and mitigation hearing was set and notice sent to all parties apprising them of the hearing on November 14, 2016, at 2:00 p.m., at the State Courts Building, 1501 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007-3231. On that date, the Hearing Panel comprised of Teri M. Rowe, attorney member, Richard L. Westby, public member, and the PDJ, William J. O'Neil.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The findings of the Hearing Panel listed below are those set forth in the SBA's complaint which were deemed admitted by Mr. Bassett's default or proven through the exhibits admitted. A respondent against whom a default has been entered no longer may litigate the merits of the factual allegations, but retains the right to appear and participate in the hearing that will determine the sanctions. Included with that right to appear is the right to testify and the right to cross-examine witnesses, in each instance only to establish facts related to aggravation and mitigation. Mr. Bassett did not appear. Mr. Bassett was a lawyer licensed to practice law in Arizona having been first admitted to practice in Arizona on June 7, 2005.

COUNT ONE (File no. 16-0076/Miller)

1. In August of 2015, Jeffrey Miller's ("Complainant") daughter, Caitlin Miller, hired Mr. Bassett for criminal representation in a probation violation matter (Maricopa County Superior Court case no. CR2013-415835).

2. Thereafter, Mr. Bassett was also retained to represent Caitlin Miller in a new criminal matter (Maricopa County Superior Court case no. CR2015-125803).

3. Mr. Bassett was paid \$4,000 for the two representations. [Exhibit 1, SBA00003-4.]

4. Mr. Bassett failed to timely comply with disclosure deadlines in CR2015-125803 and failed to diligently work on Caitlin Miller's cases. Complainant filed a bar charge against him on January 8, 2016. [Exhibit 1, SBA00001-2.] On January 28, 2016, he informed the State Bar Mr. Bassett failed to appear for a Superior Court hearing on January 25, 2016. He alleged his daughter "was left standing in court without representation that was paid for and had to ask the Public Defender to stand

in order to proceed with the process.” [Exhibit 2.] The State Bar formally responded to her father by letter dated February 23, 2016. [Exhibit 5.]

5. On February 23, 2016, the State Bar sent Mr. Bassett a screening letter to the address he had listed with the State Bar, and requested a response to the bar charge by March 14, 2016. The letter was returned by the post office noting the address was “Vacant” and “Unable to Forward.” [Exhibit 4 and 6.]

6. Mr. Bassett failed to respond to the screening letter. On March 9, 2016 the State Bar sent another screening letter to a different office address for Mr. Bassett. [Exhibit 7.] On February 21, 2016, Complainant filed another charge against Mr. Bassett alleging he had again failed to appear for a court hearing which resulted in a warrant issuing for the arrest of his client. [Exhibit 3.]

7. On April 19, 2016, Mr. Bassett appeared for the initial pretrial conference in CR2015-125803. The court noted that Mr. Bassett had failed to comply with his discovery obligations and ordered him to produce his Rule 15.2 disclosure statement to the State by April 28, 2016.

8. On April 20, 2016, because of his failure to respond to the bar charge, undersigned counsel requested that Chief Bar Counsel issue a Subpoena Duces Tecum for taking Mr. Bassett’s deposition on May 4, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. [Exhibit 8 and 9.]

9. The subpoena issued the same day and was served on Mr. Bassett on April 21, 2016. [Exhibit 10.]

10. On April 28, 2016, Mr. Bassett failed to provide to the State the Rule 15.2 disclosure statement ordered by the court. (No. 7 *supra.*)

11. On May 4, 2016, Mr. Bassett failed to appear for the deposition. On May 4, 2016 at 1:42 p.m., Mr. Bassett emailed Bar Counsel stating “I’ve been trying to

locate the subpoena you sent, because I've had a nagging worry the past few days that the day is today, but can't confirm without the subpoena." Bar Counsel immediately responded, "The court reporter is scheduled to be here for your deposition in 18 minutes. I suggest that you get here as quickly as possible. Your behavior is concerning." [Exhibit 11.] The Court Reporter submitted an Affidavit of Nonappearance of Witness to the State Bar. [Exhibit 12.]

12. On the State Bar's motion, an Order to Show Cause hearing was set for May 31, 2016. [Exhibits 48-49.]

13. On May 31, 2016, Mr. Bassett appeared and informed the Presiding Disciplinary Judge (PDJ) that he had failed to respond to the State Bar's investigation because he had been busy and because, as a perfectionist, he had not had time to complete a proper response. Mr. Bassett was warned that a contempt order would issue on June 7, 2016, at 4:00 p.m., if he did not fully respond to the State Bar and submit to a deposition. [Exhibit 50.] Mr. Bassett did not satisfy these conditions.

14. On June 7, 2016, at 4:00 p.m., Mr. Bassett was found in contempt and the interim suspension of his law license was ordered. In the same order, the PDJ indicated that Mr. Bassett could purge the contempt by complying with the prior conditions. [Exhibit 51.]

15. At 4:01 p.m., by email dated June 7, 2016, Mr. Bassett provided some information to the State Bar, including a response dated May 2, 2016. [Exhibit 13.] He has not produced accounting records or the fee agreement for the client. Bar Counsel wrote Mr. Bassett on June 8, 2016, acknowledging receipt of his June 7, 2016. [Exhibit 14.] We find that response fails to address the substantive charges and instead complains extensively about Complainant. Mr. Bassett did not comply fully

with the stated conditions. To date, he has not purged his contempt and his law license remains on interim suspension. On June 8, 2016, Bar Counsel supplied that response to Complainant as required under Supreme Court Rule 53(b)(1) and the order of interim suspension. [Exhibit 15.]

16. Mr. Bassett failed to comply with Supreme Court Rule 72. He did not inform the various counsel nor each court and division in which he had a case pending of his suspension, despite an upcoming trial date of August 8, 2016.

17. As a result of his suspension, Caitlin Miller was forced to retain new counsel, Jefferson Simmons, only weeks before trial.

18. Simmons, moved for a continuance and informed the court of Mr. Bassett's suspension. As a result, the trial was continued.

19. Mr. Bassett refunded none of the \$4,000 he collected for work in the two matters.

20. Mr. Bassett's conduct in Count One violates ERs 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.15, 1.16, 8.4(d), and Rule 54(d).

COUNT TWO (File no. 16-0558/Kearn)

21. On January 14, 2016, Mr. Bassett was hired by Complainant's (Nicole Kearn's) grandmother, Colene Esposito, to draft a demand letter related to a probate matter.

22. Mr. Bassett was 2.5 hours late to the initial consultation.

23. Esposito told Mr. Bassett that the demand letter needed to be completed and served before February 6, 2016.

24. Mr. Bassett indicated that he would complete the work for \$2,000, which he collected. [Exhibit 52.]

25. On January 27, 2016 Kern called Mr. Bassett, who indicated that the letter would be completed by the end of the day and provided to her for review; it was not.

26. On January 30, 2016 Kern again called Mr. Bassett, who indicated that the letter would be completed by the end of the day and provided to her for review; it was not.

27. On February 3, 2016; Kern again called Mr. Bassett, who indicated that the letter would be completed by the end of the day and provided to her for review; it was not.

28. On February 4, 2016, Mr. Bassett communicated by email that the letter would be completed and provided to her that day; it was not.

29. After sending Kern the email on February 4, 2016, he stopped communicating with Kern and Esposito.

30. Mr. Bassett never sent the demand letter and refunded none of the money paid to him by Kern and Esposito.

31. On February 22, 2016, Complainant in Count Two filed a bar charge against Mr. Bassett. Bar Counsel sent Complainant a letter acknowledging receipt of the bar charge and sent a screening letter to Mr. Bassett on February 25, 2016. [Exhibit 22-24]. Bar Counsel wrote a second screening letter to Mr. Bassett at a new address on March 9, 2016. [Exhibit 25.]

32. As detailed in paragraphs 8-14 of Count One above, in Count Two, Mr. Bassett failed to timely respond to the bar charge, was served with a subpoena for his deposition, failed to appear for a deposition, and was found in contempt resulting in the suspension of his license pending a full response to the bar charge. Mr. Bassett

never purged the contempt. [Exhibits 26-29]. On June 7, 2016, Mr. Bassett sent an outline of his response to the State Bar. [Exhibit 30]. Bar Counsel wrote Mr. Bassett acknowledging the receipt of that outline and forwarded a copy to Complainant. Bar Counsel asked Mr. Bassett for the fee agreement relating to Complainant and an accounting of the work he claimed to have done. [Exhibits 31-33.]

33. Mr. Bassett's conduct in Count Two violates ERs 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.15, 1.16, 8.4(d), and Rule 54.

COUNT THREE (File no. 16-1017/Corr-Polonic)

34. Mr. Bassett Represented Mary Polonic ("Complainant") in a personal injury case on a contingency fee (Maricopa County CV2014-091584).

35. Mr. Bassett failed to communicate with Complainant for a period of months during the representation.

36. On November 30, 2015, the opposing party in her personal injury suit filed a Motion to Dismiss with Prejudice.

37. Mr. Bassett failed to file a response to the motion.

38. On January 11, 2016, the court extended time for Complainant to answer the motion after Complainant informed the court she could not reach Mr. Bassett. [Exhibit 39, SBA00091].

39. On February 10, 2016, the court dismissed Complainant's case with prejudice because of Mr. Bassett's failure to respond to the motion. [Exhibit 39, SBA00092.]

40. On April 20, 2016, Bar Counsel sent a screening letter to Mr. Bassett. [Exhibit 40.] Bar Counsel wrote Mr. Bassett on June 7, 2016, reminding Mr. Bassett

his response was required. [Exhibit 43.] Mr. Bassett failed to respond to the bar charge.

41. Mr. Bassett's Conduct in Count Three violates ERs 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.16, 8.4(d), and Rule 54.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Mr. Bassett failed to file an answer or otherwise defend against the allegations in the SBA's complaint. Default was properly entered and the allegations are therefore deemed admitted pursuant to Rule 58(d), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct. Although the allegations are deemed admitted by default, there has also been an independent determination by the Hearing Panel that the State Bar has proven by clear and convincing evidence Mr. Bassett violated the ethical rules.

Based upon the facts deemed admitted, the Hearing Panel finds by clear and convincing evidence Mr. Bassett violated Rule 42, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., specifically ERs 1.1, 1.2 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.16, 8.4(d) and Rule 54.

ABA STANDARDS ANALYSIS

The American Bar Association's *Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions* ("*Standards*") are a "useful tool in determining the proper sanction." *In re Cardenas*, 164 Ariz. 149, 152, 791 P.2d 1032, 1035 (1990). In imposing a sanction, the following factors should consider: (1) the duty violated; (2) the lawyer's mental state; (3) the actual or potential injury caused by the lawyer's misconduct; and (4) the existence of aggravating or mitigating factors. *Standard 3.0*.

Duties violated:

Mr. Bassett violated his duty to his clients by violating ERs 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5 and 1.16. Mr. Bassett violated his duty to the legal system by violating ER 8.4(d).

Mr. Bassett also violated his duty owed as a professional by violating ER 8.4(d) and Rule 54.

Mental State and Injury:

Mr. Bassett violated his duty to clients, implicating *Standard 4.4*. *Standard 4.41* states:

Disbarment is generally appropriate when:

(a) a lawyer abandons the practice and causes serious or potentially serious injury to a client;

(b) a lawyer knowingly fails to perform services for a client and causes serious or potentially serious injury to a client; or

(c) a lawyer engages in a pattern of neglect with respect to client matters and causes serious or potentially serious injury to a client.

Mr. Bassett abandoned the practice of law, knowingly failed to perform services for multiple clients, and engaged in a pattern of neglect in multiple client matters. This conduct caused serious or potentially serious injury to all named clients. Therefore, *Standard 4.41* applies.

Mr. Bassett abandoned all of his clients leaving them without counsel or forced them to expend funds to retain new counsel in their respective matters. Mr. Bassett has failed to refund the legal fees he collected from either of the complainants who paid him for services in Count I and Count 2 (Count 3 involved a contingency fee). Refunds have not been made despite the clients receiving work of little or no value. Mr. Bassett further failed to substantively respond to the SBA's investigation.

AGGRAVATING AND MITIGATING FACTORS

The Hearing Panel finds the following aggravating factors are present in this matter:

- *Standard 9.22(c)*: a pattern of misconduct
- *Standard 9.22(d)*: multiple offenses

- *Standard 9.22(e)*: bad faith obstruction of the disciplinary proceeding
- *Standard 9.22(i)*: substantial experience in the practice of law
- *Standard 9.22(j)*: indifference to making restitution

CONCLUSION

The Supreme Court "has long held that 'the objective of disciplinary proceedings is to protect the public, the profession and the administration of justice and not to punish the offender.'" *Alcorn*, 202 Ariz. at 74, 41 P.3d at 612 (2002) (quoting *In re Kastensmith*, 101 Ariz. 291, 294, 419 P.2d 75, 78 (1966)). It is also the purpose of lawyer discipline to deter future misconduct. *In re Fioramonti*, 176 Ariz. 182, 859 P.2d 1315 (1993). It is also a goal of lawyer regulation to protect and instill public confidence in the integrity of individual members of the SBA. *Matter of Horwitz*, 180 Ariz. 20, 881 P.2d 352 (1994).

The Hearing Panel made the above findings of fact and conclusions of law. The Hearing Panel determined the sanction using the evidence, the facts deemed admitted, the *Standards*, the aggravating factors, the mitigating factor, and the goals of the attorney discipline system. The Hearing Panel orders:

1. Mr. Bassett shall be disbarred from the practice of law effective the date of this order.
2. Mr. Bassett shall pay all costs and expenses incurred by the SBA.
3. Mr. Bassett shall pay the following restitution amounts plus interest at the legal rate:

\$4,000 to Complainant Jeffrey Miller in Count I; and

\$2,000 to Complainant Nicole Kearn in Count II.

A final judgment and order shall follow.

DATED this 17th day of November 2016.

William J. O'Neil

William J. O'Neil, Presiding Disciplinary Judge

Richard L. Westby

Richard Westby, Volunteer Public Member

Teri M. Rowe

Teri M. Rowe, Volunteer Attorney Member

Copy of the foregoing emailed
this 17th day of November, 2016, and
mailed November 18, 2016, to:

Hunter F. Perlmeter
Bar Counsel
4201 N. 24th Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85016-6266
Email: LRO@staff.azbar.org

Charles W. Bassett
The Bassett Law Firm PLLC
2222 S. Dobson Road, Suite 1104
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Respondent

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OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE
SUPREME COURT OF ARIZONA

SEP 6 2016

FILED
BY 

**BEFORE THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY
JUDGE**

**IN THE MATTER OF A
SUSPENDED MEMBER OF
THE STATE BAR OF ARIZONA,**

**CHARLES W. BASSETT,
Bar No. 023581,**

Respondent.

PDJ 2016-9084

COMPLAINT

State Bar No. 16-0076, 16-0558, 16-1017

Complaint is made against Respondent as follows:

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

1. Respondent was first licensed to practice law in the state of Arizona on June 7, 2005.

COUNT ONE (File no. 16-0076/Miller)

2. In August of 2015, Jeffrey Miller's (Complainant's) daughter, Caitlin Miller, hired Respondent for criminal representation in a probation violation matter (Maricopa County Superior Court case no. CR2013-415835).

3. Thereafter, Respondent was also retained to represent Caitlin Miller in a new criminal matter (Maricopa County Superior Court case no. CR2015-125803).

4. Respondent was paid a total of \$4,000 for the two representations.

5. Respondent failed to timely comply with disclosure deadlines in CR2015-125803 and failed to diligently work on Caitlin Miller's cases. As a result, her father filed a bar charge against Respondent on January 8, 2016.

6. On February 23, 2016, the State Bar sent Respondent a screening letter requesting a response to the bar charge by March 14, 2016.

7. Respondent failed to respond to the screening letter.

8. On April 19, 2016, Respondent appeared for the initial pretrial conference in CR2015-125803. The court noted that Respondent had failed to comply with his discovery obligations and ordered him to produce his Rule 15.2 disclosure statement to the State by April 28, 2016.

9. On April 20, 2016, as a result of his failure to respond to the bar charge, undersigned counsel requested that Chief Bar Counsel issue a Subpoena Duces Tecum for the taking of Respondent's deposition on May 4, 2016.

10. The subpoena issued the same day and was served on Respondent on April 21, 2016.

11. On May 4, 2016, Respondent failed to appear for the deposition.

12. On the State Bar's motion, an Order to Show Cause hearing was set for May 31, 2016.

13. On May 31, 2016, Respondent appeared and informed the Presiding Disciplinary Judge (PDJ) that he had failed to respond to the State Bar's investigation because he had been busy and because, as a perfectionist, he had not had time to complete a proper response. Respondent was warned that a contempt order would issue on June 7, 2016, if he failed to remedy his failure to respond to the bar charge. Respondent did not respond by June 7, 2016.

14. On June 7, 2016, The PDJ found Respondent in contempt and suspended his license immediately. In the same order, the PDJ indicated that Respondent could purge the contempt by fully responding to the bar charge.

15. Respondent provided some information to the State Bar, but failed to produce requested accountings and fee agreements. To date, he has not purged his contempt and remains suspended.

16. In CR2015-125803, Respondent failed to provide the State with a Rule 15.2 disclosure statement by April 28, 2016, as ordered by the court.

17. Respondent also failed to inform the State or the court of his suspension, despite an upcoming trial date of August 8, 2016.

18. As a result of his suspension, Caitlin Miller was forced to retain new counsel, Jefferson Simmons, only weeks before trial.

19. Simmons, moved for a continuance and informed the court of Respondent's suspension. As a result, the trial was continued.

20. Respondent failed to refund any of the \$4,000 fee that he collected for work in the two matters detailed herein.

21. Respondent's conduct in Count One is in violation of ERs 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.15, 1.16, 8.4(d), and Rule 54(d).

COUNT TWO (File no. 16-0558/Kearn)

22. On January 14, 2016, Respondent was hired by Colene Esposito, to draft a demand letter related to a probate matter.

23. Respondent was 2.5 hours late to the initial consultation.

24. Esposito told Respondent that the demand letter needed to be completed and served before February 6, 2016.

25. Respondent indicated that he would complete the work for \$2,000, which he collected.

26. On January 27, 2016, Nicole Kearn, Ms. Esposito's grand daughter called Respondent to ask about the demand letter. Respondent told her that the letter would be completed by the end of the day and provided to her for review; it was not.

27. On January 30, 2016 Ms. Kearn again called Respondent. Respondent told her that the letter would be completed by the end of the day and provided to her for review; it was not.

28. On February 3, 2016; Ms. Kearn again called Respondent. Respondent told her that the letter would be completed by the end of the day and provided to her for review; it was not.

29. On February 4, 2016, Respondent communicated by email that the letter would be completed and provided to her that day; it was not.

30. After sending Ms. Kearn the email on February 4, 2016, he stopped communicating with Ms. Kearn and Ms. Esposito.

31. Respondent never sent the demand letter and failed to refund any of the money paid to him by Ms. Esposito.

32. On February 25, 2016 the State Bar sent a screening letter to Respondent requesting a response to the bar charge by March 16, 2016. As detailed in paragraphs 7-15 of Count One above, in Count Two, Respondent failed to timely respond to the bar charge, failed to appear for a deposition, and was found in contempt resulting in the suspension of his license pending a full response to the bar charge. Respondent never purged the contempt.

33. Respondent's conduct in Count Two is in violation of ERs 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.15, 1.16, 8.4(d), and Rule 54.

COUNT THREE (File no. 16-1017/Corr-Polonic)

34. Respondent Represented Complainant Mary Polonic in a personal injury case on a contingency fee (Maricopa County CV2014-091584).

35. Respondent failed to communicate with Ms. Polonic for a period of months during the representation.

36. On November 30, 2015, the opposing party in her personal injury suit filed a Motion to Dismiss with Prejudice.

37. Respondent failed to file a response to the motion.

38. On January 11, 2016, the court extended time for Ms. Polonic to answer the motion after Ms. Polonic informed the court that she had been unable to reach Respondent.

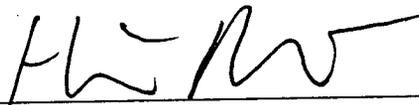
39. On February 10, 2016, the court dismissed Ms. Polonic's case with prejudice because of Respondent's failure to respond to the motion.

40. On April 20, 2016, the State Bar sent screening letter to Respondent requesting a response by May 10, 2016. Respondent failed to respond to the screening letter.

41. Respondent's Conduct in Count Three is in violation of ERs 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.16, 8.4(d), and Rule 54.

DATED this 6th day of September, 2016.

STATE BAR OF ARIZONA



Hunter F. Perlmeter
Staff Bar Counsel

Original filed with the Disciplinary Clerk of
the Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge
of the Supreme Court of Arizona
this 6th day of September, 2016.

by: John Graham
HFP:jlb

BEFORE THE ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE
PROBABLE CAUSE COMMITTEE
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ARIZONA

IN THE MATTER OF A SUSPENDED
MEMBER OF
THE STATE BAR OF ARIZONA,

CHARLES W. BASSETT,
Bar No. 023581,

Respondent.

No. 16-0076

FILED

AUG 31 2016

BY 

PROBABLE CAUSE ORDER

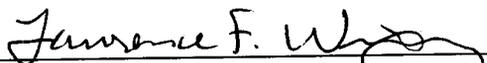
The Attorney Discipline Probable Cause Committee of the Supreme Court of Arizona ("Committee") reviewed this matter on August 12, 2016, pursuant to Rules 50 and 55, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., for consideration of the State Bar's Report of Investigation and Recommendation.

By a vote of 7-0-2¹, the Committee finds probable cause exists to file a complaint against Respondent in File No. 16-0076.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED pursuant to Rules 55(c) and 58(a), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., authorizing the State Bar Counsel to prepare and file a complaint with the Disciplinary Clerk.

Parties may not file motions for reconsideration of this Order.

DATED this 30 day of August 2016.



Judge Lawrence F. Winthrop, Chair
Attorney Discipline Probable Cause Committee
of the Supreme Court of Arizona

¹ Committee members Jeffrey B. Messing and Ben Harrison did not participate in this matter.

Original filed this 31st day
of August, 2016 with:

Lawyer Regulation Records Manager
State Bar of Arizona
4201 N. 24th Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266

Copy mailed this 1st day
of September, 2016, to:

Charles W. Bassett
The Bassett Law Firm PLLC
2222 S. Dobson Road, Suite 1104
Mesa, Arizona 85202-6201
Respondent

Copy emailed this 1st day
of September, 2016, to:

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of the Supreme Court of Arizona
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Phoenix, Arizona 85007
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Lawyer Regulation Records Manager
State Bar of Arizona
4201 N. 24th Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266
E-mail: LRO@staff.azbar.org

by: John Brekan

**BEFORE THE ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE
PROBABLE CAUSE COMMITTEE
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ARIZONA**

FILED
AUG 31 2016
BY *[Signature]*

**IN THE MATTER OF A SUSPENDED
MEMBER OF
THE STATE BAR OF ARIZONA,**

No. 16-1017

**CHARLES W. BASSETT,
Bar No. 023581,**

PROBABLE CAUSE ORDER

Respondent.

The Attorney Discipline Probable Cause Committee of the Supreme Court of Arizona ("Committee") reviewed this matter on August 12, 2016, pursuant to Rules 50 and 55, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., for consideration of the State Bar's Report of Investigation and Recommendation.

By a vote of 7-0-2¹, the Committee finds probable cause exists to file a complaint against Respondent in File No. 16-1017.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED pursuant to Rules 55(c) and 58(a), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., authorizing the State Bar Counsel to prepare and file a complaint with the Disciplinary Clerk.

Parties may not file motions for reconsideration of this Order.

DATED this 30 day of August 2016.

Lawrence F. Winthrop

Judge Lawrence F. Winthrop, Chair
Attorney Discipline Probable Cause Committee
of the Supreme Court of Arizona

¹ Committee members Jeffrey B. Messing and Ben Harrison did not participate in this matter.

Original filed this 31st day
of August, 2016 with:

Lawyer Regulation Records Manager
State Bar of Arizona
4201 N. 24th Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266

Copy mailed this 1st day
of September, 2016, to:

Charles W. Bassett
The Bassett Law Firm PLLC
2222 S. Dobson Road, Suite 1104
Mesa, Arizona 85202-6201
Respondent

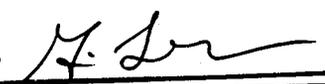
Copy emailed this 1st day
of September, 2016, to:

Attorney Discipline Probable Cause Committee
of the Supreme Court of Arizona
1501 West Washington Street, Suite 104
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
E-mail: ProbableCauseComm@courts.az.gov

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4201 N. 24th Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266
E-mail: LRO@staff.azbar.org

by: Jackie Brokaw

BEFORE THE ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE
PROBABLE CAUSE COMMITTEE
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ARIZONA

FILED
AUG 31 2016
BY 

IN THE MATTER OF A SUSPENDED
MEMBER OF
THE STATE BAR OF ARIZONA,

No. 16-0558

CHARLES W. BASSETT,
Bar No. 023581,

PROBABLE CAUSE ORDER

Respondent.

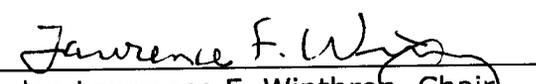
The Attorney Discipline Probable Cause Committee of the Supreme Court of Arizona ("Committee") reviewed this matter on August 12, 2016, pursuant to Rules 50 and 55, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., for consideration of the State Bar's Report of Investigation and Recommendation.

By a vote of 7-0-2¹, the Committee finds probable cause exists to file a complaint against Respondent in File No. 16-0558.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED pursuant to Rules 55(c) and 58(a), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., authorizing the State Bar Counsel to prepare and file a complaint with the Disciplinary Clerk.

Parties may not file motions for reconsideration of this Order.

DATED this 30 day of August 2016.



Judge Lawrence F. Winthrop, Chair
Attorney Discipline Probable Cause Committee
of the Supreme Court of Arizona

¹ Committee members Jeffrey B. Messing and Ben Harrison did not participate in this matter.

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by: Jackie Buchanan