

On _____ I had an Order of Protection hearing scheduled before
Commissioner _____ I represented the Petitioner/Wife,
_____ who had secured the Order against her former husband. The result of the
hearing was to quash the Order.

At the time of appearance, the commissioner assigned to the case was not present. Judge
_____ heard the matter.

I was not aware that Judge _____ is a former employee of the law firm with which I am
associated, _____ nor that she left under less than benign
circumstances that resulted in litigation in which she was adverse to the firm. This
creates an obvious possibility for continuing animosity on the part of Judge _____ and an
unfair position for Petitioner/Wife. Judge _____ did not to my knowledge at any time
indicate to either attorney that she had formerly been employed by my firm, much less
that the circumstances of her departure were less than amicable. I have ordered the CD
of the hearing to verify that Judge _____ neither addressed the possibility of reusing herself
nor informed the parties and their attorneys of this apparent conflict of interest. For the
benefit of all involved, and to avoid even the appearance of impropriety, Judge
_____ should have at least brought her relationship to my firm to the attention of counsel and
the parties.

I have advised my client that I believe we are entitled to a trial *de novo* but she is unable
to afford attorney's fees for a second hearing. This issue could have been avoided if
Judge _____ had followed accepted procedure in advising us of the potential conflict of
interest. I believe Judge _____ acted improperly and should be sanctioned for her lack of
disclosure.