



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE of PENNSYLVANIA COURTS

News for Immediate Release

Oct. 30, 2013

Chief Justice Castille says victims of Wilkes-Barre attorney will receive \$3.25 million

HARRISBURG — Chief Justice of Pennsylvania Ronald D. Castille announced that 47 claimants who were allegedly bilked by Wilkes-Barre attorney Anthony J. Lupas will receive \$3.25 million from a fund established by the Supreme Court that is supported by attorney registration fees.

Lupas advised clients that he would establish trusts on their behalf and act as the trustee with the promise that they could either receive interest distributions from the principal or add the interest to the principal to grow their trusts. There is no evidence to support that any trusts were ever created.

The payments are being made from the Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security, which was created by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in 1982 to reimburse clients who have suffered losses as a result of misappropriations of funds by their Pennsylvania attorneys. The fund receives all of its financial resources from Pennsylvania's attorneys as part of the annual attorney registration fee.

“The Lupas matter is one of the most egregious cases of attorney theft of clients’ escrow funds that I have seen in the 20 years that I have been on the Supreme Court,” Chief Justice Castille said. “Unfortunately, it appears that the client security fund will not be able to recoup the funds from attorney Lupas himself. Fortunately, the security fund, which is funded through Pennsylvania’s attorney registration fees, has sufficient reserves to cover claims up to \$100,000 per claimant. Most of Lupas’ clients will receive coverage of the loss of their principal, but others will still feel the sting of Lupas’ criminal conduct.”

Through August 2013 the Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security had approved 34 awards against Lupas totaling \$2,235,626.73. A majority of these awards have already been paid. At the board’s September 2013 meeting, it concluded that an additional 13 claims against Lupas worth \$1,014,757.26 were compensable.

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