

**BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL	:	No. 10 DB 2013
Petitioner	:	
	:	File No. C1-11-1233
v.	:	
	:	Attorney Registration No. 69689
CHRISTOPHER JON LOMBARDO	:	
Respondent	:	(Philadelphia)

**PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

Christopher Jon Lombardo, you stand before the Disciplinary Board, your professional peers and members of the public for the imposition of a Public Reprimand. It is an unpleasant task to publicly reprimand one who has been granted the privilege of membership in the bar of this Commonwealth. Yet as repugnant as this task may be, it has been deemed necessary that you receive this public discipline.

Mr. Lombardo, in or around 2007, you met with Timothy Nguyen at the Federal Detention Center in Philadelphia and were retained by Mr. Nguyen to represent him in his attempt to obtain a refund of \$50,000 from Mr. Nguyen's previous attorney, who was an associate of a firm located in California. In or around May 2009, you informed your client that you had received a refund. Thereafter, your client telephoned you and sent you letters in an effort to obtain a status update on the matter. You failed to respond to these calls and letters.

In December 2009, Mr. Nguyen forwarded a certified letter to you wherein he requested a copy of the fee agreement that he signed at the Federal Detention Center and inquired as to how long it would take to obtain the refund. Although you received this letter, you failed to respond.

In May 2010, Mr. Nguyen filed a complaint against you with the Office of Attorney Ethics in New Jersey. You received notice of the complaint against you and in June 2010, you forwarded to the Office of Attorney Ethics a letter wherein you stated that Mr. Nguyen's spouse had retained other counsel to pursue the claims against responsible parties on behalf of Mr. Nguyen. This letter to the New Jersey disciplinary authorities contended that a claim had been submitted to the State Bar of California Client Security Fund in order to protect Mr. Nguyen's interests. Further, you stated that an action would be filed against the responsible parties in New Jersey and that once the civil action was filed, you would enter your appearance and provide your client with a copy of the filing.

Shortly after filing the disciplinary complaint in New Jersey, Mr. Nguyen filed a complaint against you in Pennsylvania in June 2010. Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) contacted you and sent a follow-up letter. Thereafter, you forwarded a letter to your client, with a copy to ODC, wherein you again stated that you had placed the California State Bar on notice of Mr. Nguyen's matter and that a civil action would be filed in New Jersey. In fact, you never took any action or significant steps to pursue Mr. Nguyen's claims.

In October 2010, Mr. Nguyen forwarded a certified letter to you wherein he requested a status update on his case, a copy of the fee agreement he signed and copies of any documents that you filed with the State Bar of California, in New Jersey civil court, or other documents.

In October 2011, ODC contacted you again in regard to Mr. Nguyen. By letter of October 7, 2011, you stated for the first time your belief that you had no formal arrangement to represent Mr. Nguyen, that he had not paid you any fee, and that you

had no obligation to work for free. You advised ODC that you responded to Mr. Nguyen's letters and told him you didn't represent him, although you never produced these responses upon request from ODC. You did not take the position that you never represented Mr. Nguyen until late 2011, approximately three years after your initial meeting with your client and subsequent to your receipt of letters from your client, ODC and New Jersey Ethics Counsel.

Your conduct in this matter has violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct:

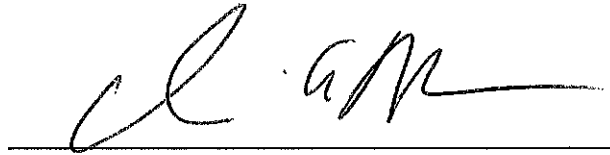
1. RPC 1.3 – A lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client.
2. RPC 1.14(a)(3) – A lawyer shall keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter.
3. RPC 1.4(a)(4) – A lawyer shall promptly comply with reasonable request for information.
4. RPC 1.4(b) – A lawyer shall explain a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make informed decisions regarding the representation.
5. RPC 8.4(c) – It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

We note that you have no history of discipline in Pennsylvania. However, your misconduct is serious enough to warrant this public discipline. Your multiple misrepresentations to your client and disciplinary authorities are serious ethical lapses.

Mr. Lombardo, your conduct in this matter is now fully public. This Public Reprimand is a matter of public record.

As you stand before the Board today, we remind you that you have a continuing obligation to abide by the Rules of Professional Conduct and Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement. This Public Reprimand is proof that Pennsylvania lawyers will not be permitted to engage in conduct that falls below professional standards. Be mindful that any future dereliction will subject you to disciplinary action.

This Public Reprimand shall be posted on the Disciplinary Board's website at [www.padisciplinaryboard.org](http://www.padisciplinaryboard.org).



Designated Member  
The Disciplinary Board of the  
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

Administered by a designated panel of three Members of The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on July 12, 2013.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

The undersigned, Respondent in the above proceeding, herewith acknowledges that the above Public Reprimand was administered in his presence and in the presence of the designated panel of The Disciplinary Board at 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Seven Penn Center, 1635 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on July 12, 2013.

  
Christopher Jon Lombardo