

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

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL,	:	No. 18 DB 2020
Petitioner	:	
	:	File No. C1-16-167
v.	:	
	:	Attorney Registration No. 78182
SIGANG LI	:	
Respondent	:	(Philadelphia)


O R D E R

AND NOW, this 21st day of February, 2020, in accordance with Rule 208(a)(5), Pa.R.D.E., the determination by a Review Panel of the Disciplinary Board of the above captioned matter is accepted; and it is

ORDERED that the said Sigang Li of Philadelphia be subjected to a **PUBLIC REPRIMAND** by the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania as provided in Rule 204(a) and Rule 205(c)(8) of the Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement.

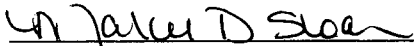
Costs shall be paid by the Respondent.

BY THE BOARD:



Chair

TRUE COPY FROM RECORD
Attest:



Marcee D. Sloan, Prothonotary
The Disciplinary Board of the
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

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PUBLIC REPRIMAND

By Order dated February 21, 2020, the Board directed that Sigang Li receive a public reprimand.

Respondent's conduct concerns his representation of an undocumented immigrant. In 2014, Respondent met with Ms. R.L. and agreed to pursue legal permanent residency on her behalf in exchange for a legal fee of \$4,000.00. Although Respondent had not previously represented Ms. R.L., he failed to explain the basis or rate of his fee to her in writing. Respondent led Ms. R.L. to believe that he would pursue a cancellation proceeding on her behalf, but failed to explain that cancellation is only available to those individuals in removal proceedings. At the time, Ms. R.L. was not in removal proceedings. Thereafter, Respondent filed a frivolous Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal on Ms. R.L.'s behalf without her knowledge or consent, knowing that such application would be referred to the Executive Office for Immigration Review for removal proceedings. The frivolous I-589 misrepresented Ms. R.L.'s factual circumstances. It stated that Ms. R.L. was seeking withholding of removal under the Convention Against Torture ("CAT"), and further stated Ms. R.L. was afraid to return to Mexico because she would likely be "kidnapped by drug dealers or mafias for

money or other ransoms.” Ms. R.L. never told Respondent she was afraid to return to Mexico because she would be tortured. In fact, Ms. R.L. was unaware that Respondent was applying for withholding of removal under CAT. Respondent’s actions exposed Ms. R.L. to an unnecessary and unacceptable risk of removal from the United States. In September 2015, Ms. R.L. hired another attorney to represent her.

By his conduct, Respondent violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct (“RPC”):

1. RPC 1.1 – A lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client. Competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation;
2. RPC 1.2(a) – A lawyer shall abide by a client’s decisions concerning the objectives of representation and, as required by Rule 1.4, shall consult with the client as to the means by which they are to be pursued;
3. RPC 1.4(a)(2) – A lawyer shall reasonably consult with the client about the means by which the client’s objectives are to be accomplished;
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 1.5(b) – When the lawyer has not regularly represented the client, the basis or rate of the fee shall be communicated to the client, in writing, before or within a reasonable time after commencing the representation;
6. RPC 3.1 – A lawyer shall not bring or defend a proceedings, or assert or controvert an issue therein, unless there is a basis in law or fact for doing so that is not frivolous;

7. RPC 84(b) – It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to commit a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects;
8. RPC 8.4(c) – It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation; and
9. RPC 8.4(d) – It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice.

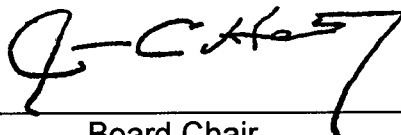
By his conduct, Respondent violated the following regulations:

1. 8 CFR § 1002.103(c) – An immigration practitioner shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions if he knowingly or with reckless disregard makes a false statement of material fact or law, or willfully misleads, misinforms, threatens, or deceives any person, concerning any material and relevant matter relating to a case;
2. 8 CFR § 1002.103(n) - An immigration practitioner shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions if he engages in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice or undermines the integrity of the adjudicative process;
3. 8 CFR § 1002.103(o) – An immigration practitioner shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions if he fails to provide competent representation to a client;
4. 8 CFR § 1002.103(p) – An immigration practitioner shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions if he fails to abide by a client's decisions concerning the objectives of representation and fails to consult with the client as to the means by which they are to be pursued;

5. 8 CFR § 1002.103(r)(1) – An immigration practitioner shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions if he fails to maintain communication with the client throughout the duration of the client-practitioner relationship...in order to properly maintain communication, the practitioner should promptly inform and consult with the client concerning any decision or circumstance with response to which the client's informed consent is reasonably required; and
6. 8 CFR § 1002.103(r)(2) – An immigration practitioner shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions if he fails to maintain communication with the client throughout the duration of the client-practitioner relationship...in order to properly maintain communication, the practitioner should reasonably consult with the client about the means by which the client's objectives are to be accomplished.

Respondent has no history of discipline in over twenty-two years of practice as an attorney.

Respondent's conduct in this matter is public. This Public Reprimand is a matter of public record and shall be posted on the Disciplinary Board's website at www.padisiplinaryboard.org



Board Chair