



FILED

DEC 27 2016

STATE BAR OF NEVADA
BY: *Robert E. Quintro*
OFFICE OF BAR COUNSEL

1 Case No. SG14-0857

3 STATE BAR OF NEVADA

4 SOUTHERN NEVADA DISCIPLINARY BOARD

5 STATE BAR OF NEVADA,)
6 Complainant,)
7 vs.)
8 ROBERT BETTINGER, ESQ.,)
Nevada Bar No. 3384,)
9 Respondent)

10 PUBLIC REPRIMAND

11 TO: ROBERT BETTINGER, ESQ.
12 c/o David A. Clark
13 LIPSON, NEILSON, COLE, SELTZER, GARIN
14 9900 Covington Cross Drive, Ste, 120
Las Vegas, NV 89144

15 In 2012, you were approached by nonlawyer Robert Rose to assume the handling of
16 various cases from former attorney Barry Levinson. One of those was Jorge A. Lusson's
17 claims for personal injuries he sustained in a motor vehicle accident that occurred on or
18 about March 6, 2011, with a Swedish national driving a rental car. You filed suit on Mr.
19 Lusson's behalf March 5, 2013, and you ultimately withdrew as counsel of record in
20 November 2013. Two different attorneys successively represented Mr. Lusson in the
21 litigation, which was finally resolved in February 2016.

22 On December 19, 2012, Mr. Lusson signed paperwork with Peachtree Funding
23 Northeast, LLC for a litigation loan against his personal injury case. The amount of the loan
24 was \$3,000, and included additional fees and interest at a rate of \$14.5% for each six-
25 month period. You signed the acknowledgment attesting that the funds would be deposited
into an IOLTA account. However, you requested that the funds be directly deposited into a

1 personal account, although you assert that the account is used for income earned from
2 your law practice. It appears that the funds were used to pay costs associated with Mr.
3 Lusson's case, including fees to Mr. Rose, and that you did not benefit from the loan
4 proceeds.

5 In further mitigation, beginning in April 2013, you experienced severe medical
6 problems, including major surgery, cancer, and a benign brain tumor that your doctor
7 indicated may have hampered your ability to think clearly. You have also satisfied in full
8 the lien by Peachtree Funding and the client has not incurred any expense as a result of
9 the loan.

10 Nonetheless, it is important to recognize your duty to supervise nonlawyer assistants
11 and ensure that your trust account is not used for improper purposes or exposes clients to
12 potential injury. As such, you violated Rule of Professional Conduct ("RPC") 1.15
13 (Safekeeping Property), and RPC 8.4(a) (Misconduct). You are hereby **PUBLICLY**
14 **REPRIMANDED** for your actions.

15
16 DATED this 30 day of November, 2016.

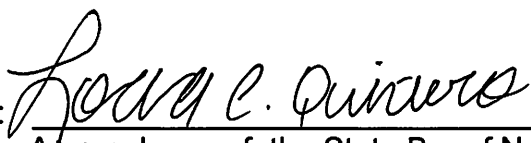
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19 Christopher Laurent, Esq., Formal Hearing Chair
20 Southern Nevada Disciplinary Panel
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1 **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

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3 and correct copy of the foregoing **PUBLIC REPRIMAND** was placed in an envelope with
4 prepaid postage affixed thereto, sealed and deposited with the United States Postal Service
5 for certified mail for delivery to:

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10 Las Vegas, NV 89144
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12 By: 
13 An employee of the State Bar of Nevada
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Publicized

PS Form 3800, August 2000

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