

FILED

OCT 11 2007

Shirley Duns
STATE BAR OF NEVADA

Case No. 06-167-2610

STATE BAR OF NEVADA

SOUTHERN NEVADA DISCIPLINARY BOARD

STATE BAR OF NEVADA,

Complainant,

vs.

BRENT BLANCHARD, ESQ.,

Respondent.

PUBLIC REPRIMAND

TO: BRENT BLANCHARD, ESQ.

Richard and Paula Salerno contracted in November 2004 for the installation of a wood-and-glass staircase in their Henderson home. The Salernos later claimed that the installation was not done properly. Specifically, a glass panel allegedly was damaged by a workman.

In October 2005, the Salernos hired you to sue the contractors and various related individuals. On January 5, 2006, you filed a lawsuit on the Salernos' behalf in Henderson Justice Court.

For several months during the attorney-client relationship, the Salernos experienced communication problems with you. Specifically, you periodically failed to promptly comply with the Salernos' reasonable requests for information about the status of their civil matter.

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1 The Salernos eventually hired another attorney, who filed a substitution of attorney
2 in October 2006. The civil case remains pending in Henderson Justice Court.

3 The State Bar initially sent you three letters (August 28, September 15 and
4 October 9, 2006, the latter two (2) letters sent by certified mail with signed receipts
5 returned to the Office of Bar Counsel) requesting his written response to the Salernos'
6 grievance. The October 9, 2006, letter warned you that if you did not provide a response,
7 a grievance file would be opened and this matter would be presented to a screening
8 panel of the Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board with the assumption that the Salernos'
9 allegations were true.

10 You did not provide a response. Accordingly, a grievance file was opened and
11 you were so informed in a certified letter dated November 21, 2006. That letter, for which
12 a signed receipt was returned to the State Bar, directed you to provide a response by
13 December 1, 2006.

14 This disciplinary matter was scheduled to be presented on January 23, 2007, to a
15 Screening Panel of the Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board. When the screening
16 agenda was prepared, you had not responded to the State Bar despite four (4) letters
17 and a telephone message left on January 16, 2007, by an Assistant Bar Counsel.
18 Therefore, the Office of Bar Counsel recommended that this matter proceed to a Formal
19 Hearing.

20 Approximately three (3) hours before the January 23, 2007, screening hearing,
21 You faxed a two-page letter that apologized for not responding in a timely matter. You
22 claimed the delay was caused by medical problems involving your wife and a heavy
23 workload. Because of the last-minute arrival of your letter, the State Bar requested that
24 this matter be held until a subsequent screening.

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1 Your correspondence of January 23, 2007, did not address the Salernos' original
2 complaint. Accordingly, on January 26, 2007, the State Bar sent you a letter requesting
3 that you provide a substantive description of your representation of the Salernos. You
4 were directed to provide a response by February 9, 2007.

5 You, however, did not provide a response. Therefore, the State Bar sent a
6 certified letter on April 9, 2007, to you directing you to provide a response by April 19,
7 2007. A signed receipt for the April 9, 2007, letter was returned to the State Bar.

8 When the instant grievance was presented on May 22, 2007, to a Screening Panel
9 of the Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board, you still had not provided a substantive
10 response to the State Bar regarding the Salernos' grievance.

11 In light of the foregoing, you violated Supreme Court Rule ("SCR") 154/Rule of
12 Professional Conduct ("RPC") 1.4 (Communication) and RPC 8.1(b) (Bar Admission and
13 Disciplinary Matters) and are hereby PUBLICLY REPRIMANDED.

14 Dated this 11 day of October, 2007.

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18 CHRISTOPHER LAURENT, ESQ.
19 Formal Hearing Panel Chair
20 Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board
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