



FILED

STATE BAR OF NEVADA

AUG 08 2017

SOUTHERN NEVADA DISCIPLINARY BOARD

STATE BAR OF NEVADA

BY: *Charles Pleasant*  
OFFICE OF BAR COUNSEL

STATE BAR OF NEVADA, )  
 )  
 Complainant, )  
 )  
 vs. )  
 )  
 BRANDON L. PHILLIPS, ESQ., )  
 )  
 Nevada Bar No. 12264, )  
 )  
 Respondent )

**LETTER OF REPRIMAND**

TO: Brandon L. Phillips, Esq.  
 c/o David A. Clark Esq.  
 9900 Covington Cross Drive, Suite 120  
 Las Vegas, NV 89144

**OBC16-1406/Alycia Hansen**

On Friday May 12, 2017, a Hearing Panel of the Southern Nevada Disciplinary Panel convened to determine whether your conduct at a taxation hearing which occurred on August 11, 2016, and subsequent actions violated the Rules of Professional Conduct.

You appeared on behalf of a taxpayer at the initial taxation hearing. Prior to the initial tax hearing, you believed your role at the hearing was to assist the taxpayer's original counsel in representing the taxpayer and to learn more about taxation hearings. However, after the taxpayer's original counsel was not permitted to conduct the hearing because he was not a lawyer, you took over as lead counsel and conducted the hearing on behalf of the taxpayer.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the matter was reset so that the taxpayer could provide additional information to the presiding judge. Although you testified that you believed the taxpayer to be your client, you did not communicate with the taxpayer following the hearing, did not inform the taxpayer that her original counsel was not a lawyer and could not represent her, and

1 did not attend the taxpayer's subsequent hearing. On or about December 7, 2016, you submitted a  
2 letter indicating that you were withdrawing from the matter.

3 Rule of Professional Conduct 1.1 (Competence) requires that:

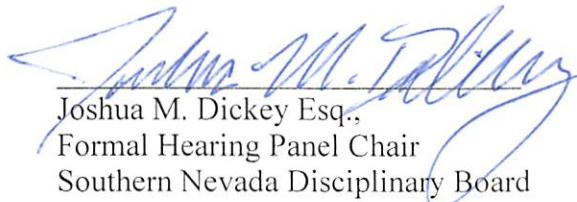
4 "A lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client.  
5 Competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill,  
6 thoroughness and preparation reasonably necessary for the  
7 representation."

8 Your conduct did not meet this minimum standard as you failed to communicate with the  
9 taxpayer, including failing to inform the taxpayer that her original retained counsel was not even a  
10 lawyer, and failed to attend the follow-up hearing.

11 As such, you violated Rule of Professional Conduct 1.1 (Competence) and are hereby

**REPRIMANDED.**

12 DATED this 7th day of August, 2017.

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15 Joshua M. Dickey Esq.,  
16 Formal Hearing Panel Chair  
17 Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board  
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