

JAN 23 2013

Catherine A. [Signature]
STATE BAR OF NEVADA

1 Case No. SG12-0103

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STATE BAR OF NEVADA

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SOUTHERN NEVADA DISCIPLINARY BOARD

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STATE BAR OF NEVADA,)

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Complainant,)

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vs.)

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RONALD N. SEROTA, BAR NO. 7904,)

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Respondent.)

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PUBLIC REPRIMAND

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TO: RONALD N. SEROTA, ESQ.

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On November 18, 2009, the Supreme Court of Nevada ("Supreme Court") temporarily suspended you from the practice of law due to your admitted misappropriation of approximately \$319,000 from your trust account. Your suspended status prohibits you from holding yourself out as an attorney, as such conduct constitutes the practice of law pursuant to Rule of Professional Conduct ("RPC") 5.5(d)(2)(iii) (Unauthorized Practice of Law).

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On December 8, 2011, you filed a proper person complaint in the United States District Court for the District of Nevada titled *Ronald N. Serota, Esq., v. Desert Cab, Inc., et al*, Case No. 2:11-cv-01969. A caption on the first page of the complaint stated "Ronald N. Serota, Attorney at Law, Nevada Bar No. 007904." Further, the signature page of the complaint contained the caption "Ronald Serota, Esq., Bar No. 7904."

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Your complaint did not disclose that your license was suspended.

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1 You also filed a *First Amended Certificate of Interested Parties* on December 12,
2 2011. This Certificate also listed "Ronald N. Serota, Attorney at Law, Nevada Bar No.
3 007904." The signature page for both the Certificate and the Certificate of Mailing indicated
4 "RONALD N. SEROTA, ESQ., Nevada Bar # 007904."

5 You did not disclose anywhere in either certificate that your license was suspended.

6 On December 21, 2011, you sent a letter regarding your complaint to Susan
7 Martinovich ("Martinovich"), Director of the Nevada Department of Transportation ("NDOT").
8 Martinovich is not an attorney.

9 The letterhead on your letter dated December 21st indicated "Ronald N. Serota, Esq."
10 with no disclaimers regarding your suspended status. The signature block on your letter of
11 December 21st also indicated "Ronald N. Serota, Esq." with no disclaimers indicating your
12 suspended status.

13 Your letter was forwarded by Martinovich to Dennis Gallagher ("Gallagher"), Chief
14 Deputy Attorney General. Gallagher realized that your license was suspended after
15 researching your name on the "Find a Lawyer" section of the State Bar's website, and
16 Gallagher thereafter submitted his letter to the State Bar.

17 You acknowledged that the conduct described above violated the Rules of
18 Professional Conduct detailed below, but noted that your conduct was negligent rather than
19 intentional. You also noted that in December 2011, you disclosed your suspended status to
20 the federal district court in a motion seeking to ascertain whether you could continue using
21 the electronic filing account that you were assigned while permitted to practice law.

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1 In light of the foregoing, you violated RPC 4.1 (Truthfulness in Statement to Others),
2 RPC 5.5 (Unauthorized Practice of Law), RPC 7.1 (Communication Concerning a Lawyer's
3 Services), and RPC 7.5 (Firm Names and Letterheads), and are hereby PUBLICLY
4 REPRIMANDED.

5 DATED this 18th day of ^{January} ~~November~~, 201~~2~~³.

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7 _____
8 F. THOMAS EDWARDS, ESQ.
9 Formal Hearing Panel Chair
10 Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board
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