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JUL 15 2014

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ON GRIEVANCES AND DISCIPLINE OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ON GRIEVANCES & DISCIPLINE

14 - 057

IN RE: COMPLAINT AGAINST
Timothy Eric Bellew
1 South State Street
Girard, Ohio 44420
Attorney Registration No. 0067573

CASE NO. _____

COMPLAINT AND CERTIFICATE

Respondent

TRUMBULL COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
CERTIFIED GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
120 High Street, N.W.
P. O. Box 4222
Warren, Ohio 44482

(RULE V OF THE SUPREME COURT
RULES FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE BAR OF OHIO)

FILED

AUG 08 2014

Relator

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ON GRIEVANCES & DISCIPLINE

1. Now comes the Relator and says that Respondent, Timothy Eric Bellew, Ohio Supreme Court Registration No. 0067573, was admitted to the practice of law in the State of Ohio on May 12, 1997.
2. Respondent is subject to the Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct and the Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio and has heretofore been given notice of the allegations of this Complaint and the opportunity to respond thereto.
3. This Complaint is filed as a result of an investigation conducted by the Trumbull County Bar Association Certified Grievance Committee and a majority of the Committee members constituting a quorum determining that this Complaint is warranted.
4. Respondent is a solo practitioner whose present office address is 1 South State Street, Girard, Ohio 44420.

5. To Relator's knowledge, Respondent has not heretofore been the subject of disciplinary proceedings.

COUNT ONE

THE PETRA RICHARDSON MATTER

6. On April 17, 2013, Petra Richardson ("Ms. Richardson") contacted Respondent to hire him to handle her divorce.
7. On April 18, 2013, Ms. Richardson retained Respondent with a \$200.00 down payment.
8. Ms. Richardson gave Respondent an additional \$200.00 payment at their second meeting, which was held on April 25, 2013.
9. At the April 25, 2013 meeting, Respondent had Ms. Richardson sign two affidavits and assured her that he would file her divorce action.
10. Ms. Richardson attempted to contact Respondent by email and telephone numerous times after their April 25, 2013 meeting.
11. However, Respondent neither replied to Ms. Richardson's emails nor returned her calls.
12. After learning that Respondent had not filed the divorce for Ms. Richardson, she sent him an email on June 8, 2013 to state that she had hired another attorney to handle her divorce for her.
13. Respondent failed to cooperate with the investigator throughout the investigation, so the investigator was unable to learn Respondent's position regarding the subject grievance.
14. By accepting Ms. Richardson's money and failing both to provide the services agreed upon and failing to refund the unearned portion of the retainer, Respondent engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.
15. Respondent's conduct as described in Count One herein violates the Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct, to-wit:

(A) Rule 8.4(c) A lawyer shall not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

(B) Rule 1.3 A lawyer shall act with *reasonable* diligence and promptness in representing a client.

CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, pursuant to Gov Bar R V and the Rules of Professional Conduct, Relator says that Respondent is chargeable with misconduct and requests that the Respondent be disciplined pursuant to Rule V of the Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio.

TRUMBULL COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

By 

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BAR COUNSEL FOR RELATOR TRUMBULL
COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION CERTIFIED
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Samuel F. Bluedorn, Chairman of the Trumbull County Bar Association Certified Grievance Committee hereby certifies that William M. Flevares and Randil J. Rudloff are authorized to represent the Relator in the premises and have accepted the responsibility of prosecuting the Complaint herein to its conclusion. After investigation, Relator believes reasonable cause exists to warrant a hearing on such Complaint.

Dated: 7/8/14



SAMUEL F. BLUEDORN, #0059154, CHAIRMAN
TRUMBULL COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
CERTIFIED GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

A copy of the foregoing Complaint was served upon Respondent by Certified and ordinary U.S.

Mail the 10th day of July, 2014 at the address set forth above.



William M. Flevaris Trumbull County Bar Counsel