

# STATE BAR OF NEVADA

February 19, 2021

Kim I. Mandelbaum, Esq.  
2012 Hamilton Lane  
Las Vegas, NV 89106

Kim I. Mandelbaum, Esq.  
6165 Darby Avenue.  
Las Vegas, NV 89146

RE: **LETTER OF REPRIMAND (OBC20-1085)**

Ms. Mandelbaum:

A Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board Screening Panel convened on February 16, 2021 to consider the above-referenced grievance against you. The Panel concluded that you violated the Nevada Rules of Professional Conduct and that you should be reprimanded for your handling of the State Bar's subsequent investigation inquiries. This letter constitutes delivery of the Panel's reprimand.

On October 2, 2020, grievant Alex Cordier reported that you had failed to pay your bill for document storage of over 600 boxes of legal records in their custody at your direction. Mr. Cordier reported that this was the second occasion that his professional expenses of safekeeping legal materials were not timely paid by you. He reported attempting to contact you without success by certified mail, email, facsimile and hand-delivery. He reported that they were prepared to destroy your legal records for your failure to respond to them about your financial obligation.

The State Bar sent letters of investigation to you on October 7, 2020, November 12 and December 7. These letters were directed to your SCR 79 address, a USPS forwarding address and your last known professional email address to no avail. Your SCR 79 phone number was not in service to reach you and you did not provide the State Bar with a current email address. These information queries were important for the State Bar to properly discharge its responsibilities to the public and the legal profession. The information would have helped determine if any clients might be harmed and if you had quickly remediated the danger to your client's legal records. You have failed to respond to the State Bar's inquiries.

RPC 8.1 states that "...a lawyer...in connection with a disciplinary matter, shall not: ...(b) ...knowingly fail to respond to a lawful demand for information from an admissions or disciplinary authority..." It is for this essential reason of communication that SCR 79(1) mandates every Nevada lawyer "...shall provide to the State Bar..." "permanent" and "current" contact information.

You negligently breached that duty to respond to the lawful demand for information. You also knowingly failed to provide the State Bar with your current email address as required by SCR 79. The potential harm to your clients and the profession is significant in that client records may have been destroyed for your abandonment of the records storage account.



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ABA Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions ("Standards"), Section 7.3 (Violation of duties owed as a professional) states: "Reprimand is generally appropriate when a lawyer negligently engaged in conduct that is a violation of a duty owed as a professional, and causes injury or potential injury to a client, the public, or the legal system."

Based on the foregoing, you are hereby REPRIMANDED for a violation of RPC 8.1 and SCR 79. Please promptly conclude this matter by remitting the minimum costs of \$1,500 within 30 days of the issuance of this sanction. SCR 120(3).

Please allow this reprimand to serve as a thoughtful reminder of your professional ethical obligations. We wish you well and trust that no similar problems will arise in the future.

*Luke Puschnig*  
By: Luke Puschnig (Feb 17, 2021 11:12 PST)  
Luke Puschnig, Esq.  
Screening Panel Chair  
SOUTHERN NEVADA DISCIPLINARY BOARD