

# STATE BAR OF NEVADA



November 18, 2013

## PUBLIC REPRIMAND

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[www.nvbar.org](http://www.nvbar.org)

Re: State Bar of Nevada v. Richard Molezzo, Esq./ Case No. NG12-1956

Dear Mr. Molezzo:

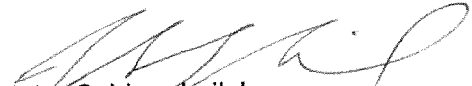
The State Bar received a grievance letter from a former secretary with your law firm alleging that you were violating ethical rules by personally signing the signatures of criminal defendants to documents filed with the Court. You did not disclose that you were in fact signing the documents on behalf of your clients.

You cooperated with the State Bar's investigation and candidly acknowledged that it was, in certain circumstances, your practice to sign documents on behalf of your clients by executing documents without disclosing that you were the one actually signing the document. In your response you explained that you understood that this was common practice among defense counsel and was done because criminal defendants were often out of state or incarcerated making access to them difficult.

The Office of Bar Counsel asked several local judges if signing the signature of a client was permissible if the client was incarcerated or out of the state. Bar Counsel was informed by the judges that this was not permissible. It is a violation of Rule of Professional Conduct 3.3 (Candor Toward the Tribunal) and considered a potential fraud upon the Court to do so.

Bar Counsel was able to determine that other Nevada attorneys had employed this practice in the past and, therefore, appreciates your candor in admitting that you engaged in this practice. You also gave your assurance that you will not ever again sign a document in lieu of a client's signature. By your conduct in signing the signatures of clients you violated RPC 3.3 and are hereby reprimanded.

Sincerely,



John Schlegelmilch  
Formal Panel Hearing Chair  
Northern Nevada Disciplinary Board