



July 22, 2021

LETTER OF REPRIMAND

Xavier Gonzales Esq.
c/o Adam Schneider, Esq.
7990 W. Sahara Avenue, Suite 200
Las Vegas, NV 89117

RE: Grievance / Angel Mendoza Arroyo
Reference No. OBC20-1112

Dear Mr. Gonzales:

The Mendoza family retained you in 2014 to represent them in an immigration matter. In February 2015, you filed the U-Visa/918 Petition for the family. An immigration form which accompanied the petition showed your office then-address on South Casino Center Blvd in Las Vegas.

You subsequently moved your office to Lake Mead Boulevard in Las Vegas. However, you failed to update your address with the United States Customs and Immigration Services ("USCIS"). In 2015, you updated your office address with the United States Postal Service and requested a forwarding address, which expired in 2016.

More than four years after you submitted the U-Visa/918 Petition, on February 11, 2019, the USCIS sent a request for additional evidence ("RFE"). USCIA stated that the additional information was due on May 9, 2019. The request, however, was sent to your prior office address on Casino Center Boulevard as listed on the original petition.

As such, you failed to respond to the RFE by May 2019 deadline. A Notice of Denial dated June 13, 2019, was issued by USCIS and once again sent to the address on Casino Center Boulevard. You were not aware of the denial as it was sent to your former address.

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On September 4, 2019, USCIS sent a notice of hearing in removal proceedings for the Mendoza family and directed them to appear at the Las Vegas Immigration Court on November 19, 2019.

On October 4, 2019, you met with the Mendoza family and advised them that you never received from USCIS the RFE or Notice of Denied. You advised them to seek outside counsel to assist them in resolving their matter because of a possible conflict of interest.

The Mendoza family has since retained new counsel and their immigration case remains pending. In mitigation, you worked with their new attorney and prepared an affidavit accepting responsibility for the fact a change of address was not submitted and, therefore, the RFE was not received or responded to.

Accordingly, you are hereby Reprimanded for violating Rule of Professional Conduct 1.3 (Diligence).

Sincerely,

 (17, 2021 09:14 PDT)

Luke Puschnig, Esq.
Screening Panel Chair
Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board