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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PRESS RELEASE

HONOLULU—On May 30, 2013, the Disciplinary Board of the Hawai'i Supreme Court imposed a PUBLIC REPRIMAND upon Honolulu attorney Kendall C. S. Wong for violating HRPC 1.15(g)(2) by failing to maintain subsidiary ledgers for his client trust account and make them available for inspection; for violating HRPC 1.15(g)(8) and HRPC 1.15(g)(9) by failing to conduct required monthly and quarterly reconciliations of his client trust account; and for violating HRPC 8.1(b) and HRPC 8.4(d) by failing to provide the Office of Disciplinary Counsel with the identity of clients with funds in his client trust account, as well documentation and information concerning those clients

As aggravating factors, the Disciplinary Board noted that Mr. Wong had previously received six informal admonitions, that Mr. Wong has substantial experience in the practice of law, and that Mr. Wong violated client trust accounting rules in multiple ways. As mitigating factors, the Disciplinary Board noted that Mr. Wong regretted his ethical violations, that Mr. Wong experienced numerous health problems, and that Mr. Wong had received the 2008 Justice Award from the Hawai'i State Bar Association for providing pro bono legal services.

In addition to the reprimand, the Disciplinary Board also required Mr. Wong to hire an accountant, as well as to complete a Practicing Attorney Liability Management Society Program.

While this reprimand does not prevent Mr. Wong from continuing to practice law, it may cause the sanction for any future violations to be more serious than would otherwise be the case.

Mr. Wong, 65, was admitted to the Hawai'i bar in 1975.

(A copy of the Disciplinary Board's Order is available upon request.)

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