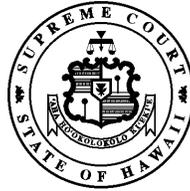


Office of Disciplinary Counsel
1132 Bishop Street, Suite 300
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Telephone (808) 521-4591
www.odchawaii.com



Acting Chief Disciplinary Counsel
Charlene M. Norris, Esq.

Acting Deputy Chief Disciplinary Counsel
Yvonne R. Shinmura, Esq.

Assistant Disciplinary Counsel
Thomas F. Robertson, Esq.
Mark L. Bradbury, Esq.

Staff Attorney
Jenna R. ManzaKing, Esq.

Investigators
George Elerick
Clinton K. Billington
Kathleen E. Ferreira
William S. Hartford

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: October 30, 2013
Wednesday

CONTACT: YVONNE R. SHINMURA
(808) 521-4591, ext. 240

PRESS RELEASE

HONOLULU -- The Hawai'i Supreme Court disbarred Honolulu attorney **MICHAEL R. SALLING** from the practice of law, effective November 21, 2013, based upon Mr. Salling's violation of the provision of the Hawai'i Rules of Professional Conduct which prohibits attorneys from engaging in conduct constituting dishonesty, fraud, deceit, and misrepresentation. Mr. Salling's ethical misconduct included his dishonest attempt to gain fee-simple title to his client's apartment worth approximately \$400,000.00 at the time, against the wishes of his client, and through the use of a power of attorney which he prepared for the client to execute shortly before her death. After Mr. Salling used the power of attorney to execute a deed transferring the property to himself, he misrepresented the authenticity of the invalid deed with the Land Court and Bureau of Conveyances, and misrepresented on official tax forms that the apartment had been given to him as a gift, in an attempt to avoid payment of taxes. Additionally, Mr. Salling's attempt to use the power of attorney in an improper attempt to secure for himself a substantial gift from the client was also a conflict of interests ethics violation.

MORE

The Court found multiple aggravating factors were present. These factors included Mr. Salling's intent to benefit himself personally and financially at the expense of the client's Estate and the beneficiary of her trust, his client's vulnerability; and his failure to recognize the wrongful nature of his conduct, to show remorse, and to evince any intention to pay restitution for the damages he caused to his client's Estate.

Mr. Salling, 65, was admitted to the Hawai'i State Bar on September 20, 1976, and was previously suspended from the practice of law for six months in 1993.

The public is cautioned and advised that Mr. Salling cannot practice law until reinstated by order of the Hawai'i Supreme Court. Mr. Salling cannot accept any new retainers, clients, or legal matters.

[A copy of the Supreme Court's Order of Disbarment is available upon request.]

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