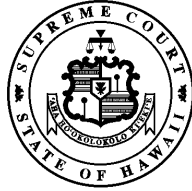


Office of Disciplinary Counsel  
201 Merchant Street, Suite 1600  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
Telephone (808) 521-4591  
www.odchawaii.com



Chief Disciplinary Counsel  
Richard A. Platel, Esq.  
  
Deputy Chief Disciplinary Counsel  
Yvonne R. Shinmura, Esq.  
  
Assistant Disciplinary Counsel  
Bruce B. Kim, Esq.  
Jane S. Preece, Esq.

Investigators  
George Elerick  
Robert Kauffman  
James M. Murphy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Date: April 25, 2016

CONTACT: Yvonne R. Shinmura  
521-4591, extension 240

PRESS RELEASE

HONOLULU - On March 24, 2016, the Hawai'i Supreme Court suspended Honolulu attorney WILLIAM TAGUPA from the practice of law, for an additional two years. The Court had previously issued an order suspending him for six months and no reinstatement order was thereafter issued.

While the Court's injunctive order continued in effect, Mr. Tagupa formed an attorney-client relationship with a distant relative and provided him with legal assistance in a civil rights proceeding and subsequent litigation regarding a wrongful discharge claim, and then upon appeal. Mr. Tagupa's unauthorized practice of law included drafting of legal documents and giving of legal advice. The Court determined that Mr. Tagupa had violated his ethical obligations under the Hawai'i Rules of Professional Conduct when he failed to obey the rules of the tribunal and comply with the terms of the Court's 2005 ongoing injunction.

The Court notified Mr. Tagupa that any further conduct which constitutes the unauthorized practice of law while he is suspended may be grounds for criminal contempt proceedings against him.

The public is cautioned and advised that Mr. Tagupa remains ineligible to practice law until reinstated by the order of the Supreme Court. Mr. Tagupa cannot accept any retainers, clients, or legal matters.

Mr. Tagupa, 70, was admitted to the Hawai'i bar on May 15, 1987.

(A copy of the Supreme Court's Order is available upon request.)

If there are any questions, please contact me at (808) 521-4591, extension 240.

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