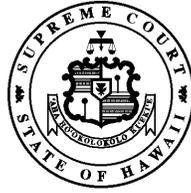


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Date: October 07, 2016

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PRESS RELEASE

HONOLULU - On September 29, 2016, the Hawai'i Supreme Court suspended William T. Martinez from the practice of law for 45 days, effective October 31, 2016. He is a Hawai'i licensed lawyer who practices immigration law in the State of California.

Mr. Martinez was disciplined for failing to timely file a request for extension for his client's non-immigrant visa prior to its expiration date, violating his ethical duty of diligence. Respondent also violated his ethical duties of competence, diligence, and scope of representation when he filed an erroneous immigration petition. Respondent further violated the Hawai'i Rules of Professional Conduct when he failed to correctly inform his client that the notice from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services required the client to exit the United States, and to re-apply at the U.S. Consulate in Venezuela in order to avoid accruing unlawful presence in the United States. Finally, Respondent also violated his duties of competence, diligence, communication, and honesty when he negligently misrepresented the facts and informed his client that his visa had been successfully

extended, although it had not.

The Court concluded that Mr. Martinez's conduct harmed the legal system and his client, including the possibility of a bar on his client's re-entry into the United States, and his client suffered actual monetary injury and other harm, by accruing unlawful presence in the United States. Aggravating and mitigating factors were present in this case.

The Court also ordered that Mr. Martinez pay restitution to his client in the sum of \$2,471.00.

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

Mr. Martinez, 64, was admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of Hawai'i on May 19, 1989.

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

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