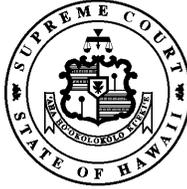


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Friday, January 22, 2021

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PRESS RELEASE

HONOLULU, HAWAI'I - On January 21, 2021, the Hawai'i Supreme Court imposed a five-year suspension from the practice of law upon attorney Christopher S.B. Woo for misconduct in multiple legal matters, involving multiple clients.

The court found that in one case that Woo failed, over the course of four months, to provide competent legal services as promised to his client, despite their repeat inquiries, then withdrew from representation without proper consultation, thereby causing injury to his clients. Woo then failed to comply with disciplinary orders entered in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court regarding his representation of the same clients, and he misrepresented the truth, when he informed the Hawai'i disciplinary authorities that the U.S. Bankruptcy Court's disciplinary sanctions had been reduced, based in part on the purported fact that he had signed a settlement with the court, and based in part on the purported fact the investigation into his conduct was found to be flawed, when neither assertion was true.

In a second matter, Woo repeatedly failed to appear in court on behalf of his client and 3.4(e) and failed to appear in court as ordered to explain his conduct. He then engaged in deceitful conduct by informing an investigator from the Prosecutor's Office that he would cooperate and accept personal service of an order to show cause but then avoided service thereafter, and then informed ODC he was unaware of any attempt of service of the order by the Prosecutor's Office.

In a third matter, Woo knowingly practiced law while administratively suspended, by filing materials on behalf of a client in a bankruptcy matter and by making representations on

behalf of a client in a criminal matter. Also, while licensed, he repeatedly failed to attend hearings on behalf of his client, ultimately necessitating his removal from the case and substitution by other counsel.

In a fourth case, Woo failed to visit, call, or otherwise communicate with his two clients in a criminal proceeding during the two-month period they were in custody, failed to attend a pre-trial hearing, and failed to attend court hearings on his clients' matter, including two trial calls, ultimately necessitating his removal from the representation. Woo also violated conduct rules multiple times by failing to respond to orders to show cause, attend scheduled hearings on those orders, or to pay the subsequently imposed \$250.00 sanction.

Overall, Woo failed to cooperate with the Hawai'i disciplinary authorities' lawful investigations into his conduct, and misrepresented the truth to a disciplinary investigator when he informed her that he had responded to one of the complaints she was attempting to serve upon him, when he had not.

In aggravation, the court found Woo committed multiple violations, engaged in bad faith obstruction of the disciplinary process, refused to accept the wrongful nature of his conduct, is indifferent to addressing or ameliorating the injuries he inflicted through his conduct, and has substantial experience in the practice of law. In mitigation, the court noted Woo's prior unblemished disciplinary record.

The court then ordered Woo suspended from the practice of law for five years, effective immediately. Woo was also ordered to pay restitution to clients harmed, and costs of these disciplinary proceedings.

Woo has been on suspension since October 18, 2019 for his earlier failure to cooperate in some of these matters. Therefore, he should have no current clients, nor any pending cases. If anyone has information indicating that Woo is still practicing law, they should contact the Office of Disciplinary Counsel at 808-521-4591, or by e-mail to info@dbhawaii.org.

Woo, age 48, was admitted to the Hawai'i bar in 1998, and is a graduate of the University of Hawai'i, William S. Richardson School of Law. If there are any questions, please contact me at (808) 469-4026.

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Case information: ODC v. Christopher S.B. Woo, SCAD-20-0000754

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