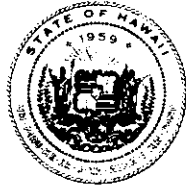


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 28, 1989

PRESS RELEASE

The Supreme Court of Hawaii yesterday issued an Order suspending Honolulu attorney MATTHEW S. BATTISTA from the practice of law for a period of three (3) years. The suspension takes effect immediately.

The suspension was based upon Mr. Battista's course of conduct as a private practitioner in six (6) separate cases. Three of those matters involved divorce cases. In the first case, Mr. Battista failed and neglected to timely file the Divorce Decree, and he misrepresented to the client that it had already been submitted to the court for filing. In the second case, he failed to appear at a scheduled divorce hearing, failed to timely prepare the Divorce Decree, and failed to promptly withdraw as counsel at the client's request. In the third case, his failure to serve the Summons and Complaint for Divorce upon the opposing party resulted in the court's dismissal of his client's case for lack of prosecution.

In a fourth case, Mr. Battista failed and neglected to file a Pretrial Statement, which resulted in the court's dismissal of his client's case with prejudice. Thereafter, he failed to advise his client of the order of dismissal. In a fifth matter, he failed to complete his client's case by timely forwarding documentation to her as promised. In the sixth case, he failed to maintain complete records and to provide his client with an appropriate accounting of his client's funds.

Mr. Battista also failed repeatedly to return telephone calls and to respond to requests for information from his clients regarding the status of their cases.

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In addition, Mr. Battista failed to cooperate with the Office of Disciplinary Counsel in its investigation of all of the foregoing cases.

Mr. Battista will not be allowed to practice law during the term of his disciplinary suspension. Upon the expiration of the term of suspension, Mr. Battista will be required to apply for reinstatement, and the Supreme Court must approve his reinstatement before he may resume the practice of law.

Mr. Battista, 45, was admitted to the Hawaii bar on October 2, 1979.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT CHARLENE M. NORRIS,
ASSISTANT DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, AT 521-4591.

(Copies of the Supreme Court's Order, as well as the Disciplinary Board's Report and Recommendation for the Suspension of Matthew S. Battista from the Practice of Law for a Period of Three (3) Years, are attached for your information).