

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA
(Before the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar)

THE FLORIDA BAR,

vs.

Case No. SC07-43

TFB File Nos. 2006-31,829(09A)

ANDREA RUTH BATEMAN.

PUBLIC REPRIMAND

Please state your full name and the place where you practice law.

Ms. Bateman, you have been ordered by the Supreme Court of Florida to receive a public reprimand before the assembled members of the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar.

By order of the Supreme Court of Florida dated August 30, 2007, you were found to have engaged in professional misconduct when:

The Florida Bar conducted a compliance audit of your trust account and found that your trust account was not in substantial compliance with The Rules Regulating The Florida Bar regarding trust accounts. Specifically, you: 1) engaged in impermissible commingling of funds and paid personal expenses from your trust account; 2) failed to maintain a trust account disbursement journal and deposit slips that identified the client or matter for which the funds were disbursed, received, or transferred; 3) failed to perform monthly reconciliations and comparisons; and 4) your trust account statement revealed an over draft fee.

When clients engage services of a lawyer they place their trust in that lawyer's hands. Trust is a cornerstone of a good attorney and client relationship. Actions that betray that trust, including failure to keep accurate accounting of client funds, damage not only the individual relationships and reputation, but they harm the legal profession as a whole. When attorneys engage in misconduct it casts doubt over the fair and impartial administration of justice. Actions such as yours reduce respect for the legal profession and diminish the effectiveness of our system of justice.

Ms. Bateman, your actions and unethical behavior constitute violations of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar. Those rules include the Rules of Professional Conduct, and our code of ethics.

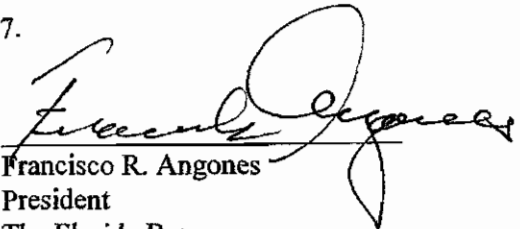
This **Public Reprimand** is now part of your permanent Florida Bar disciplinary record. You are further advised that while this **Public Reprimand** does not affect your privilege of practicing law, future misconduct will. The lawyers of Florida expect your future conduct be in compliance with your oath and you should demand the same of yourself.

PUBLIC RECORD

DEC 18 2007

MDG 38

Done and Administered this 14th day of December, 2007.



Francisco R. Angones
President
The Florida Bar