

**THE FOLLOWING INFORMAL ADMONITION WAS ISSUED  
BY BAR COUNSEL ON  
February 8, 2008**

***BY CERTIFIED MAIL***  
**#7160 3901 9845 4859 7882**

Squire Padgett, Esquire  
c/o Roberta Y. Wright, Esquire  
1111 14th Street, N.W., Suite 820  
Washington, D.C. 20002

Re: *In re Padgett*  
D.C. Bar No. 206128  
Bar Docket No. 2007-D263

Dear Mr. Padgett:

This office has completed its investigation of the above-referenced matter. We find that your conduct reflected a disregard of certain ethical standards under the District of Columbia Rules of Professional Conduct (the "Rules"). We are, therefore, issuing you this Informal Admonition pursuant to Rule IX, §§ 3, 6, and 8 of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals' Rules Governing the Bar (D.C. Bar R.)

We docketed this matter for investigation on August 1, 2007, based on a disciplinary complaint filed by your former client ("A.L.D."). A.L.D. alleges that on July 11, 2006, you verbally agreed to represent her in an employment matter and that you neglected her case.

You responded by letter dated August 24, 2007, and state that you agreed to represent A.L.D. In response to our additional inquiry regarding your retainer agreement, you advised that you did not have a written retainer or other writing stating the rate or basis of your fee. You acknowledge that you never executed a writing with A.L.D. setting forth your rate or the basis for your fee.

Based upon our investigation of this matter, we conclude that you violated Rule 1.5(b).

**Rule 1.5(b)** states:

"When the lawyer has not regularly represented the client, the basis or rate fee shall be communicated to the client, in writing, before or within a reasonable time after commencing the representation."

We find that you failed to provide a retainer agreement or writing setting forth the basis or rate of your fee to ALD although you agreed to represent her interest. A review of your disciplinary history reveals that on two prior occasions this office has advised you that a failure to have a retainer agreement or a writing setting forth the rate or basis for your fee is a violation of the Rules. We do not find sufficient evidence that you neglected the underlying employment case.

This letter constitutes an Informal Admonition pursuant to D.C. Rule XI, §§ 3, 6, and 8 and for your violation of Rule 1.5(b), and is public when issued. We have decided to issue an Informal Admonition because you have agreed to accept it, have cooperated with our investigation, and have agreed to have a practice management assessment of your office completed by the D.C. Bar's Practice Management Advisory Services within six months of the issuance of the letter. Additionally, you have agreed to consent in writing to the disclosure to this office of the Services findings and recommendations. Please refer to the attachment to this letter of Informal Admonition for a statement of its effect and your rights to have it vacated and have a formal hearing before a Hearing Committee.

If you would like to have a formal hearing, you must submit a written request for a hearing to the Office of Bar Counsel, with a copy to the Board on Professional Responsibility, within 14 days of the date of this letter, unless Bar Counsel grants an extension of time. If a hearing is requested, this Informal Admonition will be vacated, and Bar Counsel will institute formal charges pursuant to D.C. Bar R. XI, § 8 (c). The case will then be assigned to a Hearing Committee and a hearing will be scheduled by the Executive Attorney for the Board on Professional Responsibility pursuant to D.C. Bar R. XI, § 8 (d). Such a hearing could result in a recommendation to dismiss the charges against you or a recommendation for a finding of culpability, in which case the sanction recommended by the Hearing Committee is not limited to an Informal Admonition.

Sincerely,

Wallace E. Shipp, Jr.  
Bar Counsel

Enclosure: Attachment to Letter of Informal Admonition

cc: Ms. A.L.D. (w/o enclosure)

GMBD/EAH/jnb