

**THE FOLLOWING INFORMAL ADMONITION WAS ISSUED
BY BAR COUNSEL ON
January 11, 2007**

**BY FIRST-CLASS AND CERTIFIED
MAIL NO. 7160 3901 9849 4836 0000**

Luis Salgado, Esquire
Salgado & Associates PLLC
220 California Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

Re: *In re Salgado*; Bar Docket No. 2005-D383
Bar Registration No. 342444

Dear Mr. Salgado:

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 D.C. Bar Rule XI, §§ 3, 6, and 8.

We docketed this matter for investigation based upon your client's complaint that you did not provide competent advice about his immigration problem; you used an outdated Citizenship and Immigration Services ("CIS") form which caused delay in his case; and you failed to inform him that he needed an original of a CIS document for his consular interview. Your client also states that he unsuccessfully attempted to communicate with you for nine days before he returned to Sweden to obtain information about his case.

You responded that the advice that you provided concerning the feasibility of a J1 visa was a preliminary assessment, that the outdated CIS form did not cause harmful or significant delay, and that you forwarded the original CIS document to your client in time for his consular interview. You state that since your client did not pay you for your representation at the consular level, you were not obligated to advise him as to what documents he needed to bring for the interview.

We find that your advice concerning the J1 visa was not presented as if it were only a preliminary assessment and that you gave your client the mistaken impression that such a visa would have assisted him. You do not respond to your client's allegation that he could not reach you for nine days before he returned to Sweden, although you state that you were accessible from Sweden by e-mail. Further, while your client did not retain

you to assist him at the consular level, he requested his file and information from you regarding his upcoming interview. You provided some information but you did not tell him that he would need to bring the original CIS document to the consular interview and you did not provide the original CIS document until your client specifically asked you about it. If you respond to a client's request for information, you may not provide partial information that may be considered misleading. You must provide all the necessary information. We find that by your failure to accurately and adequately explain the J1 visa option, your failure to return your client's telephone calls, and your failure to disclose all necessary information to your client about the consular interview, you violated Rules 1.4 (a) and 1.4 (b).

During this Office's investigation of the complaint, your client filed a request to arbitrate your fee dispute before the Attorney/Client Arbitration Board of the District of Columbia Bar ("ACAB"). You attempted to condition a settlement of the client's ACAB claim on the client's withdrawing his complaint to this office, although you acknowledged that "we can't control what the DC Bar does". When the ACAB found in favor of your client, you failed to pay the award by the due date. Based on these circumstances, we find that you violated Rules 8.4(a) and Rule 8.4(d) as well as Rule 1.16(d).

In issuing this Informal Admonition, we have taken into account that you have no record of any disciplinary violations, and you cooperated with this office's investigation.

This letter constitutes an Informal Admonition pursuant to D.C. Bar Rule XI, §§ 3, 6, and 8, and is public when issued. Please refer to the attachment to this letter of Informal Admonition for a statement of its effect and your right 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 (b). 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 (c). 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 (w/o Encl.): Markus C.H. Salmberg

WES:EAH:gjh:act