

**ATTORNEY GRIEVANCE COMMISSION
OF MARYLAND**

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

200 HARRY S. TRUMAN PARKWAY
SUITE 300
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
410-514-7085

MARIANNE J. LEE, ESQUIRE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

March 19, 2021

Nema Sayadian, Esquire
One Bethesda Center
4800 Hampden Lane
Suite 200
Bethesda, MD 20814

RE: BC Docket No. 2019-1990
Complainant: Lakisha L. Burl

Dear Mr. Sayadian:

The Attorney Grievance Commission, at its meeting on March 17, 2021, approved the proposed Reprimand agreed upon by you and Bar Counsel and directed that this letter of Reprimand be administered to you.

Pursuant to Maryland Rule 19-717, the Attorney Grievance Commission of Maryland hereby reprimands Nema Sayadian, Respondent, for engaging in professional misconduct that violated Rules 19-301.2, 19-301.3, 19-301.4, and 19-308.1(a) of the Maryland Attorneys' Rules of Professional Conduct (MARPC).

On May 3, 2016, Lakisha Burl retained the Respondent to represent her in connection with a car accident that occurred on April 28, 2016. At the outset of the representation, the Respondent was aware that Ms. Burl had diminished capacity and he communicated primarily with Ms. Burl's mother, Linda Burl, about the representation. While the Respondent believed that Ms. Burl's disability tolled the statute of limitations in her personal injury case, he failed to discuss the statute of limitations with Ms. Burl or her mother. The Respondent failed to advise Ms. Burl and her mother that if he filed the lawsuit more than three years after the date of the accident, and a court later determined that the limitations period was not tolled, Ms. Burl's claim would be barred. The Respondent's conduct violated Rules 19-301.2 and 19-301.4. The Respondent filed a complaint on Ms. Burl's behalf in the Circuit Court for Prince George's County (*Burl v. Gobezai, et al.*, CAE 19-13796) on April 30, 2019, two days after

CERTIFIED – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Nema Sayadian, Esquire
March 19, 2021
Page 2 of 2

the expiration of the three-year statute of limitations period. When the Respondent failed to serve the three named defendants in the lawsuit, the circuit court dismissed Ms. Burl's case without prejudice. The Respondent's conduct violated Rule 19-301.3.

On October 27, 2019, Ms. Burl filed a complaint with Bar Counsel. In his responses to Bar Counsel, the Respondent falsely claimed that he fully advised Ms. Burl of the applicable statute of limitations and of his theory that the statute of limitations was tolled based on her diminished capacity. The Respondent's conduct violated Rule 19-308.1(a).

The Commission reprimands Mr. Sayadian for the aforementioned conduct.

The Maryland Rules provide that a reprimand constitutes discipline which is public and open to inspection. Bar Counsel will be providing a copy of this letter to the Complainant.

Sincerely,



Marianne J. Lee
Executive Secretary

MJL/sg

cc: Andrew J. Graham, Esquire
Christine Celeste, Esquire

CERTIFIED – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED