

OCT 04 2013

BEFORE THE
DISCIPLINARY BOARD
OF THE
WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

In re

TAMARA MARIE CHIN,

Lawyer (Bar No. 23062).

Proceeding No. 11#00089

REPRIMAND

Under the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct promulgated by the Supreme Court of the State of Washington, you have been directed to receive this FORMAL REPRIMAND.

After receiving a bank notice that your trust account was overdrawn, the Association conducted an audit of your trust account records which revealed that you failed to deposit and maintain all unearned fees in trust, you disbursed more funds for a client than the client had in trust, you withdrew cash from the trust account, you failed to maintain an adequate check register and individual client ledgers, you failed to perform monthly reconciliations of your trust account, and failed to retain bank statements, deposit slips and cancelled checks or their equivalent.

In November 2010, Don-A Wills hired you to probate an estate and paid you a \$4,000

tlv

1 advance fee that you deposited into your operating account rather than your trust account. Ms.
2 Wills terminated your services before you had filed anything with the court and she made
3 arrangements to come to your office to pick up the confidential financial documents she had
4 provided you. She arrived to find them unattended and unsecured on the floor of the public
5 hallway outside your office. When Ms. Wills later asked you to account for the fee advance she
6 had given you, you did not do so.

7 Your failure to deposit and maintain client funds, including those of Ms. Wills, in trust
8 violated RPC 1.15A(c). Your disbursement of funds in excess of those a client had on deposit
9 violated RPC 1.15A(h)(8). Your cash withdrawals from trust violated RPC 1.15A(h)(5). Your
10 failure to maintain an adequate check register and client ledgers for your trust account violated
11 RPC 1.15B(a). Your failure to reconcile your trust account records violated RPC 1.15A(h)(6).
12 Your failure to retain the monthly bank statements and records for your trust account violated
13 RPC 1.15B(a)(7). Your failure to provide Ms. Wills an accounting of the funds she had
14 advanced you violated RPC 1.15A(e). Your failure to reasonably safeguard your client's
15 confidential financial information from unauthorized disclosure or removal violated RPC 1.6(a).

16 These actions merit a Formal Reprimand. Your actions discredit you and the legal
17 profession and show a disregard for the high traditions of honor expected from a member of the
18 Association.

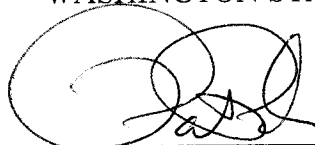
19 NOW, THEREFORE, YOU ARE HEREBY REPRIMANDED by the Washington State
20 Bar Association for this misconduct. This Reprimand will be made a part of your permanent
21 record with the Association, and will be considered along with other evidence regarding any
22 future grievances against you.

23 Your privilege to practice law in the State of Washington is based on the finding that
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1 you are a person of good moral character, and on your commitment to abide by the rules
2 governing the conduct of members of the Association. The Association expects all your future
3 conduct as a lawyer to be consistent with that finding as to your character, and with a continuing
4 commitment on your part to the letter and spirit of those rules.

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6 Dated this 4th day of October, 2013.

7 WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

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9 Patrick A. Palace, President

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12 CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

13 I certify that I caused a copy of the Reprimand
14 to be delivered to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel and to be mailed
to STEPHEN SMITH Respondent/Respondent's Counsel
at 977 Main St. #1000 BOSTON 02102 by Certified/first class mail
15 postage prepaid on the 3rd day of October, 2013

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17 Clerk/Counsel to the Disciplinary Board

Memorandum

To: Allison Sato, Clerk to Disciplinary Board
From: Natalea Skvir, Disciplinary Counsel *NS*
Date: October 4, 2013
Re: Service of Reprimand on Tamara Marie Chin

I am attaching an original reprimand for service on Ms. Chin. I have filed the duplicate original in the public file.

Thank you.