

FILED

FEB 04 2014

DISCIPLINARY BOARD

BEFORE THE
DISCIPLINARY BOARD
OF THE
WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

In re

GERALD FRANCIS ROBISON,
Lawyer (Bar No. 23118).

Proceeding No. 13#00100

ADMONITION

Pursuant to Rule 13.5 of the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct, the following Admonition was issued by the Disciplinary Board Chair.

I. ADMISSION TO PRACTICE

At all times material to the complaint, you were licensed to practice in the state of Washington.

II. FACTS

1. In 1997, you prepared an irrevocable trust for Elmer and Josephine Hautala, which the Hautalas signed on August 21, 1997.

2. The trust corpus included the Hautalas' home, which was to go to the Hautala's son, Raymond Hautala¹, on the Hautalas' death, and Raymond was to pay his siblings, Mary Mummert and John Hautala, their equal interest in the home.

¹ Because there are several people with the last name of Hautala, Raymond, John, and Mary will be referred to by their first names of clarification. No disrespect is intended.

1 3. In 2001, the Hautalas and their children executed a Quit Claim Deed and removed
2 the house from the trust corpus and gave it to Raymond outright. You prepared the Quit Claim
3 Deed for them, which they signed on July 7, 2001. Raymond paid his siblings as provided in
4 the Trust.

5 4. Much of your representation had concluded by 2003, although Mr. Hautala
6 continued to consult with you on assorted issues until approximately June 2010.

7 5. You did not communicate with Mr. Hautala or Mrs. Hautala after June 2010.

8 6. Ultimately, the Hautalas became involved in numerous, contentious legal actions
9 arising from a dispute with Raymond, as well as questions regarding Mr. Hautala's competency.

10 7. In October 2011, the Hautalas petitioned for an action under the Trust and Estate
11 Dispute Resolution Act (TEDRA), seeking to have the July 2001 Quit Claim reflect that the
12 Hautalas maintained a life estate and right of possession in the home, among other things. In Re
13 Elmer Y. Hautala and Josephine Hautala, King County Superior Court Cause Number 11-4-
14 05682-9 KNT.

15 8. On February 13, 2012, while the TEDRA action was pending, a short article
16 appeared in the Highline Times online.

17 9. On February 27, 2012, you wrote a letter to the Highline Times regarding the
18 February 13, 2012 story. The letter appeared under the title: "LETTER: Attorney writes son is
19 not swindling parents" in the Highline Times online.

20 10. In the letter, you revealed many facts about the Hautalas, including information
21 about the terms of the trust, the quit claim deed, and your related legal services for them, as well
22 as the litigation regarding Mr. Hautala's competency.

23 11. You did not have the Hautalas' authorization to make these statements.
24

1 12. The disclosure was not impliedly authorized in order to carry out their
2 representation.

3 13. The disclosure was not permitted under the applicable rules.

4 14. The clients suffered little potential injury and no actual injury.

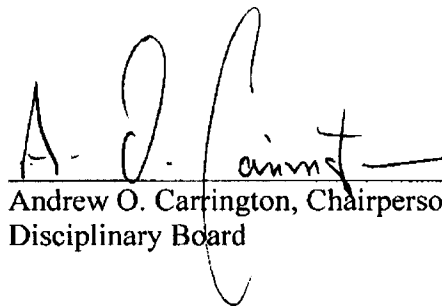
5 **III. MISCONDUCT**

6 15. By revealing information relating to the representation of his clients without their
7 informed consent, when the disclosure was not impliedly authorized in order to carry out the
8 representation and was not permitted by the rule, you violated RPC 1.6.

9
10 **IV. ADMONITION**

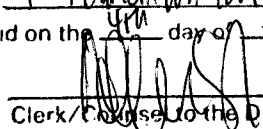
11 YOU ARE HEREBY ADMONISHED FOR THIS MISCONDUCT. This admonition is
12 not a disciplinary sanction, but is a disciplinary action, and shall be admissible in evidence in
13 subsequent discipline or disability proceedings involving you.

14 Dated this 4th day of February, 2014.

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16 
17 Andrew O. Carrington, Chairperson
18 Disciplinary Board

19 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

20 I certify that I caused a copy of the Admonition
21 to be delivered to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel and to be mailed
22 to Victoria Robison, Respondent/Respondent's Counsel
23 at 1402 S. 152nd St. #7 Burien, WA 98148, by Certified/first class mail,
24 postage prepaid on the 4th day of February, 2014


Clerk/Counsel to the Disciplinary Board