

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA
(Before the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar)

THE FLORIDA BAR,

Petitioner,

v.

R. CHRISTOPHER A. LIM,

Respondent.

Supreme Court Case

No. SC12-2476

The Florida Bar File

No. 2012-30,082(18A), et al.

ADMONISHMENT

Please state your full name and the place where you practice law.

Mr. Lim, you have been ordered by the Supreme Court of Florida to receive an admonishment before the assembled members of the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar.

By order of the Supreme Court of Florida dated April 1, 2014, you were found to have engaged in professional misconduct when:

You filed motions containing meritless arguments in two separate foreclosure cases against the same plaintiff.

In one case, in addition to a motion to dismiss, you filed a "Motion to Quash Service of Process" in which you alleged that either the "certificate of process is invalid and or the person served was not in the usual place of abode when the purported service was made."

You served the motion on an address different than the address that appeared in the signature block of the complaint. The court denied your motions and required that you answer the plaintiff's complaint. You failed to file the answer after being directed by the court to do so, resulting in a default being entered against your client. Thereafter, you filed another motion to dismiss and a second motion to quash service of process. This time you alleged that the return of service on the defendant was defective on its face because it lacked the process server's identification number, initials and date

and time of service. The judge found the second motion to quash, as pled, was "without merit" and he denied it. During the bar proceedings, you admitted that you had not even seen the return of service when you filed your first motion to quash service and that that the facial defects you raised with respect to the return of service were without basis in fact.

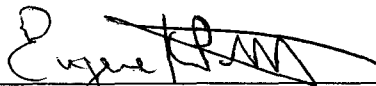
In the second case, you also filed a motion to quash service of process alleging substantially the same grounds as the motions to quash filed in the other case. The plaintiff was represented in this matter and you filed a motion to dismiss and served it on the plaintiff rather than his attorney. Ultimately, the judge denied your motions.

The referee found that, although your failure to supervise your office staff was the primary cause of the issues in the two cases and that your actions were inept and unprofessional, they did not rise to the level necessary for a violation of Rule 4-8.4(d). The referee found that your conduct was negligent rather than intentional and that your misconduct did not result in nor was it likely to result in any actual prejudice to the client or any other person nor did it result in significant protracted litigation.

Lawyers are officers of the court and are sworn to uphold the integrity of the judicial system. When attorneys engage in misconduct it casts doubt over the fair and impartial administration of justice. Actions such as yours reduce respect for the legal profession and diminish the effectiveness of our system of justice.

Mr. Lim, this **Admonishment** is now part of your permanent Florida Bar disciplinary record. You are further advised that while this Admonishment does not affect your privilege of practicing law, future misconduct will. The lawyers of Florida expect your future conduct to be in compliance with your oath and you should demand the same of yourself.

Done and Administered this 23rd day of May, 2014.



Eugene Keith Pettis
President
The Florida Bar