

# PUBLIC MATTER

1 STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA  
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**FILED**  
 DEC 23 2014  
 STATE BAR COURT  
 CLERK'S OFFICE  
 LOS ANGELES

## STATE BAR COURT

HEARING DEPARTMENT - LOS ANGELES

In the Matter of:

) Case No. 14-O-02314

13 GEORG DAVID HARTSON II,  
14 No. 119812,

) NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY CHARGES

15  
16 A Member of the State Bar

### NOTICE - FAILURE TO RESPOND!

17 **IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER TO THIS NOTICE**  
 18 **WITHIN 20 DAYS AFTER SERVICE, OR IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AT**  
 19 **THE STATE BAR COURT TRIAL:**

- 20 (1) **YOUR DEFAULT WILL BE ENTERED;**
- 21 (2) **YOUR STATUS WILL BE CHANGED TO INACTIVE AND YOU**  
**WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PRACTICE LAW;**
- 22 (3) **YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE FURTHER IN**  
**THESE PROCEEDINGS UNLESS YOU MAKE A TIMELY MOTION**  
**AND THE DEFAULT IS SET ASIDE, AND;**
- 23 (4) **YOU SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINE.**  
**SPECIFICALLY, IF YOU FAIL TO TIMELY MOVE TO SET ASIDE**  
**OR VACATE YOUR DEFAULT, THIS COURT WILL ENTER AN**  
**ORDER RECOMMENDING YOUR DISBARMENT WITHOUT**  
**FURTHER HEARING OR PROCEEDING. SEE RULE 5.80 ET SEQ.,**  
**RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA.**

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1 The State Bar of California alleges:

2 JURISDICTION

3 1. George Hartson ("respondent") was admitted to the practice of law in the State of  
4 California on December 10, 1985, was a member at all times pertinent to these charges, and is  
5 currently a member of the State Bar of California.

6 COUNT ONE

7 Case No. 14-O-02314  
8 Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 3-110(A)  
9 [Failure to Perform with Competence]

10 2. On or about January 2009, Richard Piedra employed Respondent to perform legal  
11 services, namely to represent him in a personal injury matter, which Respondent intentionally,  
12 recklessly, or repeatedly failed to perform with competence, in willful violation of Rules of  
13 Professional Conduct, rule 3-110(A), by failing to take steps to obtain Medicare's signature on  
14 the check or to get the proper release or waiver so that USAA could re-issue the check without  
15 Medicare as a payee; failing to deposit the settlement check and letting three issued checks to  
16 lapse; and failing to disburse Mr. Piedra's portion of the settlement for over three (3) years.

16 COUNT TWO

17 Case No. 14-O-02314  
18 Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 4-100(B)(3)  
19 [Failure to Render Accounts of Client Funds]

20 3. On or about June 21, 2011, Respondent received on behalf of Respondent's client,  
21 Richard Piedra, a settlement check from USSA made payable to Respondent, Client, and  
22 Medicare in the sum of \$40,000. Respondent thereafter failed to render an appropriate  
23 accounting to the client regarding those funds following a three year failure to deposit the  
24 settlement check and the issuance of three checks by USAA due to Respondent letting the  
25 checks lapse, in willful violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 4-100(B)(3).

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COUNT TWO

Case No. 14-O-02314  
Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 4-100(B)(4)  
[Failure to Pay Client Funds Promptly]

4. On or about June 21, 2011, Respondent received on behalf of Respondent's client, Richard Piedra a settlement check from USAA. made payable to Respondent, Client, and Medicare in the sum of \$40,000. Of this sum, the client was entitled \$40,000. Between in or about June 2011 and in or about August 2012, the client requested that Respondent issue payment of his funds to him. To date, Respondent has failed to pay promptly, as requested by Respondent's client, any portion of the \$40,000 in Respondent's possession in willful violation of Rules of Professional Conduct, rule 4-100(B)(4).

COUNT THREE

Case No. 14-O-02314  
Business and Professions Code, section 6068(m)  
[Failure to Respond to Client Inquiries]

5. Respondent failed to respond promptly to telephonic reasonable status inquiries made by Respondent's client, Richard Piedra, between November 16, 2011 and July 20, 2012 that Respondent received in a matter in which Respondent had agreed to provide legal services, in willful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6068(m).

NOTICE - INACTIVE ENROLLMENT!

**YOU ARE HEREBY FURTHER NOTIFIED THAT IF THE STATE BAR COURT FINDS, PURSUANT TO BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE SECTION 6007(c), THAT YOUR CONDUCT POSES A SUBSTANTIAL THREAT OF HARM TO THE INTERESTS OF YOUR CLIENTS OR TO THE PUBLIC, YOU MAY BE INVOLUNTARILY ENROLLED AS AN INACTIVE MEMBER OF THE STATE BAR. YOUR INACTIVE ENROLLMENT WOULD BE IN ADDITION TO ANY DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDED BY THE COURT.**

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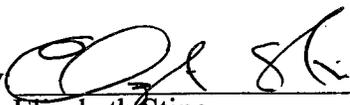
**NOTICE - COST ASSESSMENT!**

**IN THE EVENT THESE PROCEDURES RESULT IN PUBLIC DISCIPLINE, YOU MAY BE SUBJECT TO THE PAYMENT OF COSTS INCURRED BY THE STATE BAR IN THE INVESTIGATION, HEARING AND REVIEW OF THIS MATTER PURSUANT TO BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE SECTION 6086.10.**

Respectfully submitted,

THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL

DATED: 12.23.17

By   
Elizabeth Stine  
Deputy Trial Counsel

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**DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY CERTIFIED MAIL**

**CASE NUMBER: 14-O-02314**

I, the undersigned, over the age of eighteen (18) years, whose business address and place of employment is the State Bar of California, 845 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, California 90017, declare that I am not a party to the within action; that I am readily familiar with the State Bar of California's practice for collection and processing of correspondence for mailing with the United States Postal Service; that in the ordinary course of the State Bar of California's practice, correspondence collected and processed by the State Bar of California would be deposited with the United States Postal Service that same day; that I am aware that on motion of party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date on the envelope or package is more than one day after date of deposit for mailing contained in the affidavit; and that in accordance with the practice of the State Bar of California for collection and processing of mail, I deposited or placed for collection and mailing in the City and County of Los Angeles, on the date shown below, a true copy of the within

**NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY CHARGES**

in a sealed envelope placed for collection and mailing as certified mail, return receipt requested, Article No.: 7160 3901 9849 2214 6651, at Los Angeles, on the date shown below, addressed to:

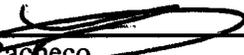
**Georg David Hartson, II  
8209A Foothill Blvd. #267  
Sunland, CA 91040**

in an inter-office mail facility regularly maintained by the State Bar of California addressed to:

**N/A**

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed at Los Angeles, California, on the date shown below.

**DATED: December 23, 2014**

Signed:   
**Lupe Pacheco**  
Declarant