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STATE BAR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO

Alexandra Ruby Epand, IN PRO PER

STATE BAR COURT
HEARING DEPARTMENT -LOS ANGELES

In The Matter Of:

) Case No.: 14-0-03877

) **ANSWER OF ALEXANDRA RUBY EPAND**
) **TO NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY**
) **CHARGES**

ALEXANDRA RUBY EPAND

No. 191733

Member of the State Bar

I, ALEXANDRA RUBY EPAND, do hereby submit this Answer in response to the charges as set forth in the Notice of Disciplinary Charges ("Notice") filed against me on February 24, 2015 as follows:

First, I did not receive a copy of the Notice and, thus, did not file a timely response to the Notice. I received a courtesy copy from the State Bar after the hearing on April 6, 2015 and after calling to request a copy of same. I immediately prepared this Answer and had it served via overnight mail to Hugh Radigan at the State Bar of California and to The State Bar Court for filing on April 8, 2015. I also sent Mr. Radigan a courtesy copy by email on April 8, 2015.

1 Second, I deny all of the allegations as set for in their entirety in the Notice against me. I
2 will be able to prove at trial that this Complaint was made by a scorned, malicious ex-lover who
3 intentionally threatened to “destroy [me] and my career” after I ended our relationship. The
4 Complainant, Mr. Michael Talbot, has openly admitted that he has improperly utilized the judicial
5 and administrative system to continue to harass me for over the last year. Mr. Talbot has filed two
6 lawsuits against me, both of which have been dismissed, and two State Bar Complaints against me
7 in North Carolina and California. The North Carolina matter has been adjudicated and resolved
8 and the only remaining claim of Mr. Talbot is this California State Bar Complaint which he filed
9 only after the North Carolina State court system found in my favor and dismissed his lawsuit
10 against me.

11 Specifically, I will be able to prove the following facts at trial:

- 12 1. Mr. Talbot and I began a personal relationship in December 2013. I ended the
13 relationship for various reasons on March 17, 2014.
- 14 2. Mr. Talbot became enraged and began making numerous threats against me including
15 that he intended to “destroy [me] and my career.”
- 16 3. Mr. Talbot is and at all times was fully aware that I was not admitted to practice law in
17 North Carolina.
- 18 4. From the day I met Mr. Talbot, he knew and understood that I was only licensed to
19 practice law in California. Mr. Talbot was at all times during our relationship a member
20 of my Facebook and Linked in pages and he had a copy of my resume which he agreed
21 to help me revise which clearly states:

22 **“BAR ADMISSION**
23 **Admitted to Practice in all Federal and State Courts in California and willing to sit**
24 **for any other state bar examination if required.”**

- 25 5. We had a very intense personal relationship and even decided to try to start a business
26 together. Mr. Talbot and I discussed me taking the North Carolina Bar and him paying
27 for it to further our business goals.

28

- 1 6. During our personal relationship, on several occasions, Mr. Talbot admitted to me that
2 he was severely addicted to drugs and alcohol.
- 3 7. By March, 2014, he had deteriorated to the point that he was totally incapable of
4 handling his own personal and business matters. During this time, Mr. Talbot was also
5 served in two litigation matters in North Carolina. I advised Mr. Talbot that he needed
6 to either hire a law firm to represent him, represent himself, or that I could try to get
7 admitted *Pro Hac Vice* in North Carolina.
- 8 8. We had several discussions about this and, despite my numerous requests that Mr.
9 Talbot hire a law firm to represent him, he stated that he did not trust anyone else and
10 wanted me to represent him *Pro Hac Vice*.
- 11 9. I interviewed a few different North Carolina law firms for him to get an idea of cost,
12 time and expense involved in either getting admitted *Pro Hac* or Mr. Talbot hiring the
13 firms directly. We selected the firm of Millazzo, Gamble & Webb PLLC in Charlotte,
14 NC and we decided to proceed with trying to get me admitted *Pro Hac Vice* with the
15 North Carolina firm overseeing the work.
- 16 10. Mr. Talbot agreed that I should be compensated for my time, mileage, expenses, etc., in
17 performing these tasks and we agreed that \$2500.00 was acceptable. Mr. Talbot's
18 Corporation, Talbot and Associates, sent me a check for \$2500.00 on or around March 5,
19 2014.
- 20 11. At no time did I ever represent to anyone, including Mr. Talbot, that I was admitted in
21 the State of North Carolina to practice law. At all times, Mr. Talbot was well aware that
22 I either needed to be admitted *Pro Hac Vice* or that he had to retain a North Carolina law
23 firm to represent him or that he could represent himself.
- 24 12. I ended the relationship with Mr. Talbot on March 17, 2014.
- 25 13. On March 18, 2014, Mr. Talbot began sending me threatening texts, voicemails and
26 emails to the point that I filed a police report against him that same day. He refused to
27 leave me alone and he stalked and harassed me for days.
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14. I agreed to return the \$2500.00 but he insisted that I do it in person. I was terrified of him as he had devolved into some type of psychotic break and was not making any sense. Eventually, at my request, Mr. Talbot's attorney advised him to stop contacting me. This enraged Mr. Talbot even more.
15. Only after I broke up with Mr. Talbot, and had his attorney intervene, did claims about the unauthorized practice of law arise.
16. Mr. Talbot is a sophisticated businessperson and has been involved in numerous litigation matters over the course of his career. As such, he is and was keenly aware that the only way he could continue to harass and stalk me was via the judicial and administrative systems.
17. In or around May 2014, Mr. Talbot sued me in North Carolina small claims court for breach of contract and requested the return of the \$2500.00. He also filed a Complaint against me with the North Carolina State Bar alleging I engaged in the unauthorized practice of law.
18. Initially, the North Carolina small claims court found in his favor. I appealed the decision and the matter was sent to Arbitration in September 2014.
19. The Arbitrator, a licensed and experienced North Carolina attorney, took testimony and documentary evidence from both parties and cross-examined both me and Mr. Talbot and another witness who testified on my behalf. The Arbitrator, dismissed Mr. Talbot's claims in its entirety.
20. Mr. Talbot admitted at the Arbitration that I did assist him in trying to either find him a law firm or get myself admitted *Pro Hac Vice*.
21. The Arbitrator thoroughly cross-examined me and my assistant at the time, Bianca Martin, about the time I spent and the mileage, expenses, etc., in trying to find Mr. Talbot legal representation.
22. The Arbitrator ruled that there was no contract for legal services between Mr. Talbot and me and that I performed certain non-legal tasks and should be compensated for my time.

1 23. The Arbitrator also questioned Mr. Talbot's motives for pursuing his claims to which
2 Mr. Talbot admitted that the only reason he was continuing his campaign was to see me
3 in person. The Arbitrator warned Mr. Talbot that if he continued to pursue these claims
4 against me, that I could be entitled to damages against him.

5 24. Mr. Talbot filed this Complaint with the California State Bar **only after he lost at**
6 **Arbitration in September 2014.**

7 25. Mr. Talbot's claim against me with the North Carolina State Bar has been adjudicated
8 and resolved.

9 26. Mr. Talbot also appealed the ruling at the Arbitration and the matter was set for trial in
10 February 2015.

11 27. Mr. Talbot ultimately dismissed this case without prejudice.

12 28. The only remaining open matter involving Mr. Talbot is this State Bar Complaint, which
13 again, Mr. Talbot filed after he lost at Arbitration in North Carolina State Court.

14 29. I never advised Mr. Talbot or anyone else that I was a licensed North Carolina attorney.
15 Any discussions I had with anyone I made it clear that I was just a family friend and all
16 of the witnesses in this case will attest to this. The State Bar will not be able to produce
17 any admissible evidence via documents or testimony that I held myself out to him or
18 anyone else as his attorney or as being admitted or able to practice law in North
19 Carolina.

20 30. This entire case involves a scorned ex-lover who admitted during an Arbitration that the
21 only reason he has pursued any claims against me is because it is the only way he can
22 still "continue to see me." Mr. Talbot further admitted during the Arbitration that he is
23 intentionally utilizing the judicial and administrative system to continue to harass and
24 stalk me and sully my career. If necessary, the Arbitrator, a licensed North Carolina
25 attorney, and the witness who testified on my behalf at the Arbitration will so testify.

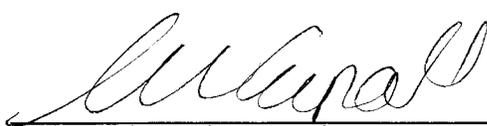
26 31. At all times, I genuinely believed that I was acting within the scope of the North
27 Carolina statutes and was NOT "practicing law" other than to try to help a friend get
28 appropriate legal representation and help for his personal issues. Any and all

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communications with Mr. Talbot were with the anticipation of either hiring a North Carolina law firm for him or getting me admitted *Pro Hac Vice*. Witnesses and documentary evidence will prove this at trial.

32. Finally, I have practiced law for over 15 years and have countless clients and colleagues who will testify as to my character and integrity. I have never had anyone file any claims or complaint against me with respect to my legal career. I take this matter very seriously and will be prepared to defend my self at trial.

DATED: April 7, 2015


Alexandra Ruby Epan
In Pro Per

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

[Rules Proc. Of State Bar; Rule 5.27(B); Code Civ.Proc. Sec. 1013a(4)]

I am an employee of Post Net in Cornelius, NC I am over the age of eighteen and not a party to the within proceeding. Pursuant to standard court practice, in the City of Cornelius, North Carolina, on April 8, 2015, I deposited a true copy of the following document(s):

ANSWER OF ALEXANDRA RUBY EPAND

in a sealed envelope for collection and mailing on that date as follows:

By overnight mail addressed as follows:

1. California State Bar Court, 180 Howard Street, 6th Fl, San Francisco, CA 94105-1639.
2. Hugh Radigan, 845 S. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017-2515.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Cornelius, North Carolina on April 8, 2015.

Ashley R Shemill 4-8-15
Ashley Shemill