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**FILED**  
**OCT 11 2015**  
STATE BAR COURT  
CLERK'S OFFICE  
LOS ANGELES

STATE BAR COURT  
HEARING DEPARTMENT - LOS ANGELES

In re the Matter of ) **NO. 15-O-15431-WKM**  
MICHAEL ARTHUR PINA, ) **RESPONSE**  
No. 157116, )  
A Member of the State Bar. )

On August 26, 2016, I and my assistant Richard Petter met with the State Bar Prosecutor and her investigator and provided them with all the details of the incident that occurred on August 21, 2015, when my assistant signed the name of the client to a declaration that was prepared on the client's behalf. The declaration was for an August 25<sup>th</sup> Law and Motion hearing where no live testimony was scheduled. The draft declaration was sent to me by the client on August 20<sup>th</sup> and was almost six (6) pages of argument, not factual statements which were not relevant to her reimbursement claims. I used the client's words in the declaration to the extent possible as I incorporated parts of two (2) of the client's paragraphs into the declaration I had prepared. On August 19<sup>th</sup> the client sent me a letter from her father's attorney regarding an inheritance that her

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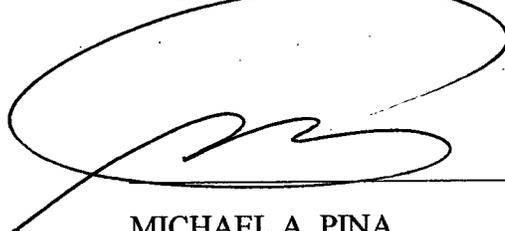
1 former spouse diverted from her children. This was an issue over which the Santa Barbara  
2 Superior Court had no jurisdiction, as the res of the estate was located in Ventura County, but I  
3 raised the issue in prior pleadings at the client's insistence. On August 20<sup>th</sup> the client also sent  
4 additional medical expense receipts to include in the reimbursement request. The client previously  
5 sent me her records. I prepared the reimbursement request which consisted of an accounting with  
6 67 exhibits from the client's records that documented the various medical and other expenses the  
7 client had paid without contribution from her former spouse dating back to March 2012.

8 On August 20<sup>th</sup> the client sent an email to my assistant Richard Petter asking "Did you get  
9 the documents filed today?" Mr. Petter brought this to my attention and I told him to get the  
10 declaration filed. I had no intention of filing the letter from the client's and I did not believe that  
11 the client was serious about substituting me prior to the hearing. She did not understand that the  
12 hearing on the 25<sup>th</sup> would be decided on the filed pleadings and argument. She did not need to be  
13 present because there would be no testimony. There was an additional hearing scheduled for  
14 September where she would need to be present if it went forward.

15 I took these actions in order to get the evidence before the court in time for the  
16 Commissioner to review the declaration prior to the hearing. My intent was to neither deceive the  
17 court nor harm the client. I had appeared in this courtroom, in front of this judicial officer  
18 countless times and I knew what evidence I needed to get before her in order to prevail on this  
19 claim. I have been open and candid about my involvement in the signing of the declaration  
20

21 DATED: October 11, 2016

Respectfully submitted,



MICHAEL A. PINA

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

I am employed in the county of Santa Barbara, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; my business address is: 621 West Micheltorena Street, Suite A, Santa Barbara, California 93101.

On October 11, 2016, I served the foregoing document(s) described as:

**RESPONSE**

[In re Michael A. Pina; State Bar No. 157116]

on the interested parties in this action by placing a true copy thereof, enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed as follows:

Ms. Shataka A. Shores-Brooks  
Deputy Trial Counsel  
State Bar of California  
845 South Figueroa Street  
Los Angeles California 90017-2515

**BY MAIL**

I am readily familiar with the firm's practice of collection and processing of correspondence for mailing. Under that practice, it would be deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on that same date with postage thereon fully prepaid at Santa Barbara, CA in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one day after date of deposit for mailing in affidavit.

**BY FACSIMILE**

I transmitted such documents by facsimile machine to the offices of the addressee pursuant to CCP §1013(f).

**BY ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**

I transmitted such documents by e-mail to the offices of the addressee pursuant to CCP §§ 263, et seq.; 1010.6.

**BY PERSONAL SERVICE**

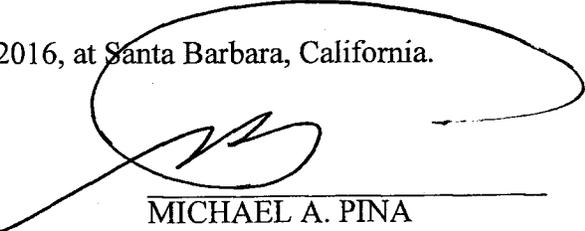
I caused such envelope to be delivered by hand to the office of the addressee.

**(State)** I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

**(Federal)** I declare that I am employed in the office of a member of the bar of this court at whose direction the service was made.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

Executed on October 11, 2016, at Santa Barbara, California.

  
MICHAEL A. PINA