

BEFORE THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE

IN THE MATTER OF A MEMBER OF THE
STATE BAR OF ARIZONA,

GIL C. NEGRETE,
Bar No. 026068

Respondent.

PDJ 2022-9073

FINAL JUDGMENT AND ORDER

(State Bar File 21-2792)

FILED FEBRUARY 9, 2023

The Presiding Disciplinary accepted the parties' Agreement for Discipline by Consent submitted pursuant to Rule 57(a), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Respondent **GIL C. NEGRETE, Bar No. 026068**, is suspended from the practice of law in Arizona for one year, effective 60 days from the date of this order, for his conduct in violation of the Arizona Rules of Professional Conduct, as outlined in the consent documents.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent comply with the requirements relating to notification of clients and others and provide and/or file all notices and affidavits required by Rule 72, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent pay the costs and expenses of the State Bar of Arizona in the amount of \$1,200.00 within 30 days. There are no costs or expenses incurred by the office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge in these proceedings.

DATED this 9th day of February, 2023.

Margaret H. Downie
Margaret H. Downie
Presiding Disciplinary Judge

Copy of the foregoing emailed
this 9th day of February, 2023 to:

Stephen Montoya
Montoya Lucero & Pastor PA
3200 N. Central Ave., Ste. 2550
Phoenix, Arizona 85012-2490
Email: stephen@montoyalawgroup.com

David L. Sandweiss
State Bar of Arizona
4201 N. 24th Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266
Email: LRO@staff.azbar.org

by: SHunt

BEFORE THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE

**IN THE MATTER OF A MEMBER OF THE
STATE BAR OF ARIZONA,**

**GIL C. NEGRETE,
Bar No. 026068**

Respondent.

PDJ 2022-9073

**DECISION ACCEPTING
AGREEMENT FOR DISCIPLINE BY
CONSENT**

(State Bar File 21-2792)

FILED FEBRUARY 9, 2023

On February 1, 2023, the parties filed an Agreement for Discipline by Consent (“Agreement”) pursuant to Rule 57(a), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct. The State Bar of Arizona is represented by Senior Bar Counsel David L. Sandweiss. Respondent Gil C. Negrete is represented by Stephen Montoya. The Agreement resolves a formal complaint filed on September 23, 2022.

Contingent on approval of the proposed form of discipline, Mr. Negrete has voluntarily waived his right to an adjudicatory hearing, as well as all motions, defenses, objections, or requests that could be asserted. As required by Rule 53(b)(3), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., notice of the Agreement was sent to the complainant. The PDJ has not been provided with any objections.

The Agreement details a factual basis in support of Mr. Negrete’s conditional admissions and is incorporated by reference. *See* Rule 57(a)(4), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct. Mr. Negrete conditionally admits violating Rule 42, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., ER 1.15(d), (e) and (f) (safekeeping of property), ER 4.4(a) (respect for rights of others), and ER 8.4(c) (conduct

involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation). As a sanction, the parties agree to a one-year suspension and payment of costs to the State Bar. The State Bar conditionally agrees to dismiss alleged violations of ER 1.3 (diligence).

The Agreement sets forth the facts and circumstances regarding Mr. Negrete's misconduct. Generally speaking, he failed to honor a medical lien or follow the procedures required by ER 1.15. He later created false documentation in an attempt to hide his failure, which he submitted to the State Bar.

Mr. Negrete violated duties owed to the legal profession and the public, causing actual harm. He acted intentionally and knowingly.

The Agreement cites several provisions of the American Bar Association's *Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions* ("Standards"), which variously call for suspension or disbarment:

- 4.12 -- Suspension is generally appropriate when a lawyer knows or should know that he is dealing improperly with client property and causes injury or potential injury to a client.
- 5.11 - Disbarment is generally appropriate when: ... (b) a lawyer engages in any other intentional conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation that seriously adversely reflects on the lawyer's fitness to practice.
- 7.2 - Suspension is generally appropriate when a lawyer knowingly engages in conduct that is a violation of a duty owed as a professional, and causes injury or potential injury to a client, the public, or the legal system.

The parties stipulate to the existence of the following aggravating factors: (1) prior disciplinary offenses; (2) dishonest or selfish motive; (3) multiple offenses; (4) submission of false evidence, false statements, or other deceptive practices during the disciplinary process; (5) substantial experience in the practice of law; and (6) illegal conduct. They further stipulate to six mitigating factors: (1) personal or emotional problems; (2) timely good faith effort to make restitution or to rectify consequences of misconduct; (3) full and free disclosure to disciplinary board or cooperative attitude toward proceedings; (4) character of reputation; (5) remoteness of prior offenses; and (6) remorse. However, the record does not establish that Mr. Negrete's health issues mitigate his most serious misconduct because there is no demonstrated nexus between those problems and his dishonesty. See *In re Peasley*, 208 Ariz. 27, 40 (2004) ("Physical disability is a mitigating factor only if there is a direct causal connection between the physical disability and the misconduct.").

In *In re Fioramonti*, 176 Ariz. 182 (1993), the Arizona Supreme Court suspended the respondent lawyer for three years - primarily because he created and submitted false evidence to the State Bar in an effort to defend against a bar charge. Additionally, Fioramonti testified falsely during his deposition about the manufactured evidence and sought to obtain affidavits from other attorneys to support his false claims. The court's majority noted the dissenting justice's view that disbarment was appropriate and agreed

that Fioramonti's conduct was "sufficiently grievous to merit disbarment." Due to his lack of disciplinary history and "good reputation in his community," though, the majority deemed a three-year suspension appropriate. 176 Ariz. at 187. In doing so, however, the court issued the following admonition:

Respondent has shown himself willing to lie and deceive to accomplish his personal goals, without regard to the consequences to others. To deter others who may be so inclined, we must send a strong message to the bar and the public that this type of behavior will not be dealt with lightly.

176 Ariz. at 188-89. *See also In re Fresquez*, 162 Ariz. 328 (1989) (disbarment for submitting a false affidavit in defense of a bar charge); *In re Varbel*, 182 Ariz. 451, 454 (1995) ("Lying during [disciplinary] proceedings is one of most serious ethical violations an attorney can commit and, absent mitigating circumstances, warrants the ultimate sanction of disbarment.").

Based on *Fioramonti*, *Varbel*, and *Fresquez*, the sufficiency of the agreed-upon sanction is debatable. Fioramonti's attempted fraud on the State Bar, though, was more extensive than Mr. Negrete's. In addition to creating file notes after-the-fact to defend against the bar charge, Fioramonti committed perjury during his deposition and attempted to obtain false affidavits from other attorneys to bolster his defense. In contrast, Mr. Negrete admitted his wrongdoing when he responded to the State Bar's screening investigation, admitting that his doctored emails were "self-serving, false and

wrong.” He has now paid the medical lien in full, and several individuals have submitted letters attesting to his good reputation.

After considering the totality of circumstances, the PDJ will accept the terms of the negotiated Agreement – in large part because Mr. Negrete will be required to go through full reinstatement proceedings should he wish to again practice law in Arizona and will have to prove by clear and convincing evidence that, among other things, he has been rehabilitated by overcoming the weaknesses that caused his misconduct in these proceedings.

For the foregoing reasons,

IT IS ORDERED accepting the Agreement for Discipline by Consent. A final judgment and order is separately filed this date.

DATED this 9th day of February, 2023.

Margaret H. Downie
Margaret H. Downie
Presiding Disciplinary Judge

Copy of the foregoing emailed
this 9th day of February, 2023, to:

Stephen Montoya
Montoya Lucero & Pastor PA
3200 N. Central Ave., Ste. 2550
Phoenix, Arizona 85012-2490
Email: stephen@montoyalawgroup.com

David L. Sandweiss
State Bar of Arizona
4201 N. 24th Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266
Email: LRO@staff.azbar.org

by: SHunt

David L. Sandweiss, Bar No. 005501
Senior Bar Counsel
State Bar of Arizona
4201 N. 24th Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266
Telephone (602) 340-7386
Email: LRO@staff.azbar.org
Counsel for the State Bar

Stephen Montoya, Bar No. 011791
Montoya Lucero & Pastor PA
3200 N. Central Ave., Ste. 2550
Phoenix, Arizona 85012-2490
Telephone (602) 256-6718
Email: stephen@montoyalawgroup.com
Respondent's Counsel

BEFORE THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE

**IN THE MATTER OF A MEMBER
OF THE STATE BAR OF
ARIZONA,**

**GIL C. NEGRETE,
Bar No. 026068,**

Respondent.

PDJ 2022-9073

State Bar File No. 21-2792

**AGREEMENT FOR DISCIPLINE
BY CONSENT**

The State Bar of Arizona and Respondent Gil C. Negrete hereby submit their Agreement for Discipline by Consent pursuant to Rule 57(a), Ariz.R.S.Ct.¹ A

¹All references to rules are to the Arizona Rules of the Supreme Court unless stated otherwise.

probable cause order was entered on September 19, 2022. A formal complaint was filed September 23, 2022. Respondent voluntarily waives the right to an adjudicatory hearing, unless otherwise ordered, and waives all motions, defenses, objections or requests which have been made or raised, or could be asserted thereafter, if the conditional admissions and proposed form of discipline are approved.

Pursuant to Rule 53(b)(3), notice of this agreement was provided to the complainant by mail on January 24, 2023. Complainant has been notified of the opportunity to file a written objection to the agreement with the State Bar within five (5) business days of bar counsel's notice. Copies of Complainant's objections, if any, have been or will be provided to the presiding disciplinary judge.

Respondent conditionally admits that he violated Rule 42, ERs 1.15(d), (e) and (f); 4.4(a); 8.1(a); and 8.4(c). Upon acceptance of this agreement, Respondent agrees to accept imposition of a one-year suspension effective 60 days from the date the presiding disciplinary judge enters her acceptance of this consent agreement and associated Judgment and Order. Respondent also agrees to pay the costs and expenses of the disciplinary proceeding, within 30 days from the date of this order. If costs are not paid within the 30 days interest will begin to accrue at the legal rate.²

² Respondent understands that the costs and expenses of the disciplinary proceeding

The State Bar's Statement of Costs and Expenses is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

COUNT ONE of ONE (File No. 21-2792/Cradic)

FACTS

1. Respondent was licensed to practice law in Arizona on January 16, 2009.
2. Respondent represented a client with initials CB in a bodily injury case. CB obtained care from Donald Cradic at Cradic Chiropractic. Complainant Christy Cradic was the office manager at Cradic Chiropractic at all material times.
3. Cradic Chiropractic recorded a medical lien against CB and Progressive Ins. Co., with notice to Respondent. The lien was for \$1,092.50 to the date of recording, plus whatever increases ensued from ongoing treatment. CB's case settled in 2021 by which time the lien was \$3,228.50.
4. Between April 13-16, 2021, Respondent asked Dr. Cradic to reduce his lien but Dr. Cradic declined to do so. Respondent sent Dr. Cradic an email containing legal citations, and gave him to April 16, 2021, to accept \$2,000 in full payment of the lien.
5. Dr. Cradic accused Respondent of bullying, and he cautioned

include the costs and expenses of the State Bar of Arizona, the Disciplinary Clerk, the Probable Cause Committee, the Presiding Disciplinary Judge and the Supreme Court of Arizona.

Respondent if he did not honor the lien Dr. Cradic would take “the necessary actions” to recover from both Respondent and CB.

6. On June 22, 2021, Respondent emailed Dr. Cradic and Complainant:

Please be advised that if you do not file your suit within 30 days I will be forced to give the funds to my client and you can handle your so-called medical liens with her. I don't want to do that but you have given me no other choice. Thank you. – Gil.

7. On July 1, 2021, Complainant forwarded to Dr. Cradic an email she previously sent Respondent that stated:

Mr. Negrete, I have attached all of the contracts that Ms. [CB] signed in our office along with the recorded lien for your information. Please pay the balance in full of \$3228.50 once you have received the settlement monies.

8. No further communications occurred until December 8, 2021, when Respondent wrote to Dr. Cradic and Complainant:

Enclosed is our payment for the above-named client. We sent correspondence to your office back in May regarding a reduction request of 33%, where your office denied any form of reduction. We advised you that you may file a lawsuit against the client and your office has yet to do so. We have informed the client that your office may pursue recovery for the remainder of the bill. Negrete Law Firm has now closed this file.

9. The referenced enclosed payment was a check for \$2,163.10 (2/3 of the lien) and was intended as an accord and satisfaction. Six days later Complainant

submitted this charge.

10. A State Bar of Arizona Intake Counsel sent the charge to Respondent and asked him to contact her to discuss it. On December 16, 2021, Respondent forwarded to intake counsel what purported to be genuine emails from June 2021. One email was from Lillian Massey, Respondent's legal assistant, dated June 17, 2021, to Respondent, stating: "Sent E.R. 1.15(F) letter out over 30 days ago and no response." The other email was Respondent's email to Complainant dated June 22, 2021, but with this line manually added after the fact: "please advise if you received my E.R. 1.15(F) letter regarding our position." The second email was part of an email string that included Massey's email.

11. The version of the emails Complainant actually received from Respondent were different. The email string included an email "forward" heading from Lillian Massey to Respondent, but it was blank where the forwarded information should have been. Respondent admits that he added "Sent E.R. 1.15(F) letter out over 30 days ago and no response" to a copy of the email already sent by Ms. Massey.

12. Respondent also altered the original June 22, 2021 email he sent to Complainant by manually inserting "please advise if you received my E.R. 1.15(F)

letter regarding our position” into the email after “no other choice.” and before “Thank you. – Gil.”.

13. Respondent did not send the ER 1.15(f) letter to Complainant by certified mail as required by the rule and Complainant did not receive this or any ER 1.15(f) letter.

14. In his response to the State Bar’s charge in this matter, Respondent admitted his two alterations of the emails attempted to misleadingly support his compliance with ER 1.15(F), and acknowledged that “[t]hey were self-serving, false and wrong.”

15. Although the face of Respondent’s ER 1.15(f) letter indicates that it was faxed and sent certified mail, Respondent admits it was not sent certified mail, and there is no record of it being faxed.

16. Respondent disbursed the funds without complying with ER 1.15(f).

17. On February 4, 2022, Respondent sent Complainant a check for the full amount of the lien.

CONDITIONAL ADMISSIONS

Respondent’s admissions are being tendered in exchange for the form of discipline stated below and are submitted freely and voluntarily and not as a result

of coercion or intimidation. Respondent conditionally admits that he violated Rule 42, ERs 1.15(d), (e) and (f); 4.4(a); 8.1(a); and 8.4(c).

CONDITIONAL DISMISSALS

The State Bar conditionally dismisses the charge that Respondent violated ER 1.3.

RESTITUTION

Restitution is not an issue in this matter.

SANCTION

Respondent and the State Bar of Arizona agree that based on the facts and circumstances of this matter, as set forth above, the following sanctions are appropriate: **Suspension of one (1) year.** If Respondent violates any of the terms of this agreement, the State Bar may bring further discipline proceedings.

LEGAL GROUNDS IN SUPPORT OF SANCTION

In determining an appropriate sanction, the parties consulted the American Bar Association's *Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions (Standards)* pursuant to Rule 57(a)(2)(E). The *Standards* are designed to promote consistency in the imposition of sanctions by identifying relevant factors that courts should consider and then applying those factors to situations where lawyers have engaged in various

types of misconduct. *Standard 1.3.*

In determining an appropriate sanction, the Court considers the duty violated, the lawyer's mental state, the actual or potential injury caused by the misconduct and the existence of aggravating and mitigating factors. *Standard 3.0.*

The duty violated

Respondent violated his duties to the legal profession and the public.

The lawyer's mental state

Respondent in part intentionally and in part knowingly violated his duties to the legal profession and the public.

The extent of the actual or potential injury

There was actual harm to the legal profession and the public.

The parties agree that the following *Standards* apply:

Standard 4.12 - Suspension is generally appropriate when a lawyer knows or should know that he is dealing improperly with client property and causes injury or potential injury to a client.

Standard 5.11 - Disbarment is generally appropriate when: . . . (b) a lawyer engages in any other intentional conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation that seriously adversely reflects on the lawyer's fitness to practice.

Standard 7.2 - Suspension is generally appropriate when a lawyer knowingly engages in conduct that is a violation of a duty owed as a

professional and causes injury or potential injury to a client, the public, or the legal system.

The *Standards* do not account for multiple charges of misconduct. The ultimate sanction imposed should at least be consistent with the sanction for the most serious instance of misconduct among a number of violations; it might well be and generally should be greater than the sanction for the most serious misconduct. *Standards*, “II. Theoretical Framework.” The presumptive sanction for the most serious misconduct is disbarment and, otherwise, is suspension.

Aggravating and mitigating circumstances

The presumptive sanction is disbarment or suspension. The parties conditionally agree that the following aggravating and mitigating factors should be considered:

Aggravating factors include: *Standard 9.22*—

(a) prior disciplinary offenses – June 17, 2021, File No. 20-2100, Admonition, ER 8.4(b). Respondent committed a misdemeanor in 2011 that reflected adversely on his fitness as a lawyer.

(b) dishonest or selfish motive.

(d) multiple offenses.

(f) submission of false evidence, false statements, or other deceptive practices during the disciplinary process - this occurred during pre-

screening when Respondent supplied information to a State Bar intake counsel.

(i) substantial experience in the practice of law.

(k) illegal conduct . . . See A.R.S. §13-2809, Tampering With Physical Evidence, a class 6 felony.

Mitigating factors include: *Standard 9.32*—

(c) personal or emotional problems – Respondent had and has health issues (medical records are submitted as Ex. C under seal).

(d) timely good faith effort to make restitution or to rectify consequences of misconduct.

(e) full and free disclosure to disciplinary board or cooperative attitude toward proceedings – upon reflection, Respondent admitted he acted dishonestly during the State Bar’s pre-screening process.

(g) character or reputation – see supportive letters attached as Ex. D.

(m) remoteness of prior offenses.

(l) remorse – Respondent acknowledges the wrongful nature of his conduct.

Discussion

The presumptive sanction for the most egregious offense, disbarment, should be mitigated to a long-term (*i.e.*, greater than six months) suspension, requiring that Mr. Negrete apply for reinstatement and show rehabilitation to resume practicing law. In rejecting a six-month suspension consent agreement, this court expressed

concern over a lawyer's dishonesty to the State Bar. See "ORDER TO SUPPLEMENT CONSENT AGREEMENT" in *In RE Broadbent*, PDJ2022-9006, State Bar File No. 21-1164 (May 18, 2022). This case also involves dishonesty to the State Bar. Viewing the facts and circumstances of this case in that context, the parties conditionally agree that a one-year suspension is within the range of appropriate sanction and will serve the purposes of lawyer discipline.

CONCLUSION

The object of lawyer discipline is not to punish the lawyer, but to protect the public, the profession and the administration of justice. In re *Peasley*, 208 Ariz. 27 (2004). Recognizing that determination of the appropriate sanction is the prerogative of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge, the State Bar and Respondent believe that the objectives of discipline will be met by the imposition of the proposed sanction of a one-year suspension and the imposition of costs and expenses. A proposed form of order is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

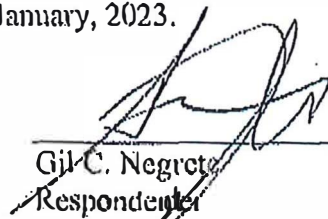
DATED this 31st day of January, 2023.

STATE BAR OF ARIZONA

David L. Sandweiss
Senior Bar Counsel

This agreement, with conditional admissions, is submitted freely and voluntarily and not under coercion or intimidation. I acknowledge my duty under the Rules of the Supreme Court with respect to discipline and reinstatement. I understand these duties may include notification of clients, return of property and other rules pertaining to suspension.

DATED this 31st day of January, 2023.



Gil C. Negrete
Respondent


DATED this 31st day of January, 2023.

Montoya Lucero & Pastor PA



Stephen Montoya
Counsel for Respondent

Approved as to form and content



Maret Vessella
Chief Bar Counsel

Original filed with the Disciplinary Clerk of
the Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge
of the Supreme Court of Arizona
this 15th day of February, 2023

Copy of the foregoing emailed
this 1st day of February, 2023, to:

The Honorable Margaret H. Downie
Presiding Disciplinary Judge
Supreme Court of Arizona
1501 West Washington Street, Suite 102
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
Email: officepdj@courts.az.gov

Copies of the foregoing emailed
this 1st day of February, 2023, to:

Stephen Montoya
Montoya Lucero & Pastor PA
3200 N. Central Ave., Suite 2550
Phoenix, Arizona 85012-2490
Email: stephen@montoyalawgroup.com
Respondent's Counsel

Lawyer Regulation Records Manager
State Bar of Arizona
4201 N. 24th St., Suite 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266
Email: LRO@staff.azbar.org

by: 
DLS/asr

EXHIBIT A

Statement of Costs and Expenses

In the Matter of a Member of The State Bar of Arizona,
Gil C. Negrete, Bar No. 026068, Respondent.

File No. 21-2792

Administrative Expenses

The Supreme Court of Arizona has adopted a schedule of administrative expenses to be assessed in lawyer discipline. If the number of charges/complainants exceeds five, the assessment for the general administrative expenses shall increase by 20% for each additional charge/complainant where a violation is admitted or proven.

Factors considered in the administrative expense are time expended by staff bar counsel, paralegal, secretaries, typists, file clerks and messenger; and normal postage charges, telephone costs, office supplies and all similar factors generally attributed to office overhead. As a matter of course, administrative costs will increase based on the length of time it takes a matter to proceed through the adjudication process.

General Administrative Expenses
for above-numbered proceedings **\$1,200.00**

Additional costs incurred by the State Bar of Arizona in the processing of this disciplinary matter, and not included in administrative expenses, are itemized below.

Additional Costs

Total for additional costs **\$ 0.00**

TOTAL COSTS AND EXPENSES INCURRED **\$ 1,200.00**

EXHIBIT B

BEFORE THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE

**IN THE MATTER OF A MEMBER
OF THE STATE BAR OF
ARIZONA,**

**GIL C. NEGRETE,
Bar No. 026068,**

PDJ 2022-9073

**FINAL JUDGMENT AND
ORDER**

State Bar No. 21-2792

The Presiding Disciplinary Judge of the Supreme Court of Arizona, having reviewed the Agreement for Discipline by Consent pursuant to Rule 57(a), Ariz.R.S.Ct., accepts the parties' proposed agreement.

Accordingly:

IT IS ORDERED that Respondent, Gil C. Negrete, is Suspended for one (1) year for his conduct in violation of the Arizona Rules of Professional Conduct, as outlined in the consent documents, effective 60 days from the date of this order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent shall be subject to any additional terms imposed by the Presiding Disciplinary Judge as a result of reinstatement hearings held.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to Rule 72, Ariz.R.S.Ct., Respondent shall immediately comply with the requirements relating to notification of clients and others.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent pay the costs and expenses of the State Bar of Arizona in the amount of \$ _____, within 30 days from the date of service of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent shall pay the costs and expenses incurred by the disciplinary clerk and/or Presiding Disciplinary Judge's Office in connection with these disciplinary proceedings in the amount of _____, within 30 days from the date of service of this Order.

DATED this _____ day of February, 2023.

Margaret H. Downie, Presiding Disciplinary Judge

Original filed with the Disciplinary Clerk of
the Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge
of the Supreme Court of Arizona
this _____ day of February, 2023.

Copies of the foregoing emailed
this _____ day of February, 2023, to:

Stephen Montoya
Montoya Lucero & Pastor PA
3200 N. Central Ave., Suite 2550
Phoenix, Arizona 85012-2490
Email: stephen@montoyalawgroup.com
Respondent's Counsel

Copies of the foregoing emailed
this _____ day of February, 2023, to:

David L. Sandweiss
Senior Bar Counsel
State Bar of Arizona
4201 N 24th Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266
Email: LRO@staff.azbar.org

Lawyer Regulation Records Manager
State Bar of Arizona
4201 N 24th Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266
Email: LRO@staff.azbar.org

by: _____

EXHIBIT C
(SEALED)

EXHIBIT D

December 9, 2022

Sylvia Sanchez
Sanchez Wild Game LLC
27 E. Jones Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85040

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Sylvia and I was born and raised in Arizona. I'm a professional musician in my father's band, Los Compas, For over 40 years we have toured and traveled performing for thousands of people. I have known Gil's parents thru my sister for over 40 years. Her ex-husband went to high school with Gil's dad. I probably met Gil in 1998 when he first started dating my niece, Trina. When I first met Gil, he was a single father in college working two jobs and raising a little girl. He was always polite and respectful to everyone just like his parents. He had manners and a good heart. I always admired that he could attend college and law school and still show up to support family functions. Gil made it look easy and I believe that set the tone for others in the family to follow him as he proved you could still have a social life as a student. Once an attorney he married my niece and bought a beautiful home. Gil doesn't come from money. His parents were regular folks working and supporting their kids. But as an attorney he started doing well financially and he became very generous with his money and time. He has supported other kids in the family with catholic tuition, college tuition, and even housing. Gil sent his daughter Alicia to Xavier College Prep which paved the way for us to send our grandchildren to the same schools as Alicia.

About 10 years ago my oldest son Tony found himself on drugs and committing crimes. Gil represented him in his first criminal case and got him probation. He handled the case for free. Unfortunately, drugs took a hold of my son's life and he continued committing a string of crimes until he was arrested again. This time Gil couldn't help him anymore because the evidence was substantial. But Gil represented him again at no charge. My son signed an 8 year plea to prison and we found ourselves raising Tony's little girl, Lenae. As my granddaughter I wanted to do all I could to keep her in my life. Because her mother was strung out on drugs and in and out of jail, we fought to keep her out of foster care. Through Gil and Dan at his office we were able to adopt Lenae and become her legal guardians. To this day, I continue to raise that little girl and now she's a senior at Xavier College Prep. She will graduate with honors, and she always tells me she wants to be like Gil when she grows up. She's planning to attend college next Fall with over 65 college credits to her name already. She one day wants to work with Gil in his law firm as a lawyer. She says he is her inspiration.

Gil has made it possible for kids growing up in South Phoenix to believe they can do anything. He helped my nephew Steve get on the right track with college when he used to be on drugs. Now Steve is very successful lineman at SRP. Gil helped my other nephew Andrew giving him a

job 12 years ago. Andrew later worked for the Maricopa County Superior Court Judges for 5 years and then the State of Arizona at the Court of Appeals for 5 years. Now Andrew is back working for Gil and very happy doing so. Two of my nieces have done internships for Gil. They all rave about working for him.

A few years ago, Gil helped me with my paperwork to open my own LLC. He has always given his time freely. He also gives a lot of money to family in need as well as paying for family gatherings. Prior to my mother passing away in 2019, Gil would give her money from time to time to help with her bills. Gil gave her eulogy at her funeral. My brother who owns a body shop receives a lot of business from Gil and this in turn helps my brother to support other family members as well.

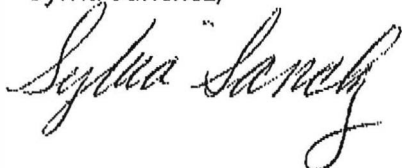
Last year when my husband found himself sick from diabetes and less than 9% of his kidneys functioning, Gil picked him up and took him to a Suns NBA Finals game and they sat courtside. It was the experience of a lifetime for Louie being a huge Suns fan. At the time many of us worried if my husband would live much longer. When his kidneys finally shut down in May of this year, Gil helped plan a fundraiser for Louie and we raised over \$18,000.00 from friends and family. Gil donated more \$5,600.00 of that money to go towards medical bills and dialysis.

My daughter Theresa works for an insurance defense firm and the attorneys tell her they think Gil's a badass attorney. Theresa's daughter followed Alicia to St Francis and Xavier Prep. Theresa will tell you Gil's story inspired her to raise her daughter the same way. Gil and Trina have also done an amazing job with their daughter, Liana. She has everything in the World but is the most selfless and caring person around. She truly takes after her Daddy with her heart of gold. She's also an excellent student at St. Francis and she's so kind to Lenae and her little sister Jenae. Lenae and Jenae share the same mother and we're trying to adopt her as well when the time permits as both of her parents are now in prison and she's in our foster care. I'm sure this is more information than needed, but hopefully it helps you understand our dynamic.

Recently our families have camped together up in Flagstaff. Gil's sisters, parents, cousins and family friends are so inviting. We bring our adult children and grandkids and everyone has a blast. The Negrete Family is such good people and I'm proud to say I know them. I'm thankful to write this letter on behalf of Gil. Please call me if you need me at 602-430-6173.

Respectfully,

Sylvia Sanchez,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sylvia Sanchez". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.



LAW OFFICE OF JAMIE SPARKS, PLC

December 11, 2022

Arizona State Bar
4201 N. 24th Street, #100
Phoenix, AZ 85016

Re: Gil Negrete

Dear Members of the State Bar:

My name is Jamie Sparks and I've been practicing law in Arizona since 2003. I began my career as a prosecutor for the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. The last 15 years I have concentrated my practice in the area of criminal defense and have had the privilege to earn my certification in death penalty work where I have had the honor to serve as lead counsel or as second chair in death penalty cases in the State of Arizona. I have also spent time as a Judge Pro Tempore in the Maricopa Superior Court presiding over felony matters.

In 2007, I met Gil Negrete. At that time, he worked for another attorney in the office suite we shared. I have had the pleasure of watching Gil successfully pass the bar, open his own practice in 2009, and eventually become a well-known personal injury attorney. Sharing a suite these past 15 years has allowed for us to interact on a daily basis, socialize, discuss cases and become good friends. There are many memorable moments you share both personally and professionally with someone when you share the same "work" home.

It is in the corner of those moments that I have seen Gil's humanity and character. If you know Gil, he didn't come from an affluent background. He's essentially climbed the ladder of success through his own hard work and determination. He spends countless hours working day and night. When I first met Gil, he was studying the state bar. I saw Gil struggle with juggling the bar exam, family responsibilities and his job responsibilities. Instead of making excuses, he continued to put in the work. Instead of allowing his fear to conquer him, he kept focused and was determined to become a lawyer.

Since I was in a unique position to know Gil before he was a licensed attorney, I do believe he learns from his mistakes. He's an attorney the community benefits from significantly because he appreciates the crucial role he plays in an individual's life when he represents that person. He often takes family and criminal matters on a pro bono basis. In my opinion, Gil retained the qualities of that hard-working young man who never took his success for granted. He is regularly called upon to donate to charities and organizations and contributes an extraordinarily large amount of money to give back to a community he so greatly enjoys serving.

Gil has also become good friends with my husband. In fact, several years ago, when my brother-in-law was in a very serious car accident, I co-counseled with Gil to represent him. Over the course of a few years, I was able to witness Gil interact with adjustors, opposing counsel and other professionals in the industry and was impressed with his ability to communicate effectively. During stressful times, he maintained his composure and always treated each participant with respect and professionalism.

While I will obviously not address the facts or circumstances surrounding this complaint, I do remember the period for which the events took place. To give it context, I had the opportunity to know Gil and observe his behavior in difficult times. Gil had been extremely ill with COVID (multiple times), his staff suffered from COVID and employees never returned to work. I witnessed Gil come to work, only to find him half asleep in his chair where he would eventually surrender to how he was feeling and go home as he could not complete his work. I also remember Gil seemed particularly scared because during this same time period he was also diagnosed with high blood pressure and was told his condition would be life threatening if it persisted. Although I had only known Gil to persevere through challenges, this time he seemed overwhelmed and fragile. I remember watching him try to manage his calendar, his family life (which included coaching his daughter's softball team) and growing concerned he was not doing well physically.

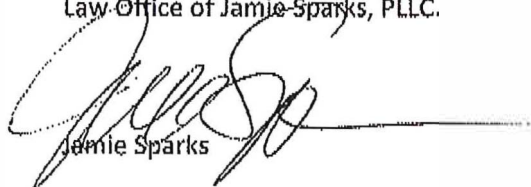
Since Gil was notified of this complaint, he has expressed that he is very remorseful and disappointed in himself. He has expressed feelings of shame and horrendous discomfort in letting people down.

It has been a privilege of mine to watch Gil grow and blossom into the attorney he is today. This is mostly because throughout the years, he has continued to remind me of that hard working and determined young man that wanted to become a lawyer all those years ago. That young man understood the license he worked so hard to achieve was a privilege you cannot take for granted and it's an honor to be in our profession. This has been based on my experience of knowing Gil the last 15 years.

Thank you very much for your time and please feel free to contact me with any questions or if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Law Office of Jamie Sparks, PLLC.



Jamie Sparks


LEEANDRA R. BACA
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
(505) 206-2599

Dear State Bar of Arizona:

My name is Leendra Baca and I'm originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico. I moved to Tempe, Arizona several years ago to pursue my nursing degree at Arizona State University. While at Arizona State, I had a few traffic citations. I believe it was sometime in 2017 or 2018 that I was referred to an attorney by the name of Gil Negrete, Esq. Several of my sorority sisters used his services for other various legal circumstances. I was told he was a great person and very trustworthy. Gil was extremely helpful in helping me resolve my license issues with MVD and the courts at no charge.

Over the last couple of years I have been involved in two accidents. One accident involved another vehicle that fled. Gil referred me to a body shop and they repaired my vehicle at a fraction of the cost. In the other accident, Gil gave me a reduced fee and I made several thousand dollars on my settlement. It allowed me to pay for fees and costs towards my career in esthetics.

I have used Gil for letters of recommendations and have referred him to others for legal services. Recently Gil asked if I would say a few words on his behalf due to a complaint he received from the State Bar. He didn't get into any specifics but I know whatever he's going thru is really bothering him. I'm honored he's asked me to write something for him. I'd like to share that Gil is a kind and caring person. He's been like a big brother to me in Phoenix when I didn't have family close by. He has helped me more than you know. Whenever I've had leasing issues, domestic issues with my ex-boyfriend or even buying my first puppy, I called or texted Gil. That's truly the kind of attorney and friend he's been to me. I can be reached on my cell or email for anything further. leeandrarbaca@gmail.com


LEEANDRA R. BACA
12/11/2022

11/1/2022

Michael Walker
36513 W. Bilbao Street
Maricopa, AZ 85138

Re: Attorney/Friend Gil Negrete

Greetings,

My name is Michael Walker and I'm a friend and client of Gil Negrete. I have known Gil since 2003 shortly after I arrived from Lake Wales, Florida. Gil and I met through my best friend, Amare Stoudemire, a former NBA basketball player. I managed Amare's personal business for several years including his endorsement deals, youth camps, books for children, and other services in the Valley. I met Gil while he was in law school. Gil and I quickly became friends and he offered his services to Amare to help develop his brand in the community. Gil served for Amare in many ways including as a volunteer coach every summer for Amare's youth camps. Gil would also travel to the Native American communities around Arizona to promote the our youth camp that catered to 200+ kids because he knew these kids enjoyed basketball. Gil loves Phoenix and he loves the Suns. Gil brought his daughter Alicia and other family members including under-privileged kids he knew in the community to our camps. Gil would speak with the kids about the importance of school and graduating college. I admired Gil at the time he was a single father going to school, volunteering, and working for a law firm.

Once Gil became an attorney, I referred all my friends and family to him for their legal needs. He always calls them personally and takes the time to talk to my friends or referrals regardless of their issues. Everyone tells me how pleased they are with Gil's services and that he's a very genuine and real person. On many occasions, Gil represented friends and family for free on criminal and family related cases. Back in 2016 I retained Gil's services when my fiancé accused me of domestic violence and kicked me out of our home. She filed an injunction for harassment against me. She also attempted to take my daughter away from me thru the court system. It was a harrowing experience. I filed for an emergency custody hearing and the judge placed me on supervised visits with my own daughter. I was so upset but in the coming days, weeks, and months, Gil assured me that the truth of everything would come to light and I would be vindicated. It was frustrating and sad as I endured this process. Due to my financial strain, Gil represented me pro-bono to defend me on the injunction for harassment as well as my family case in Maricopa County Superior Court. Meanwhile my ex-fiancé paid her attorneys at Jaburg Wilk more than \$25,000.00. After an evidentiary hearing, Judge Fish ruled in my favor. I was elated because it awarded me unsupervised visits with my daughter and 50/50 custody. I'm indebted to Gil's hard work and couldn't have gotten thru that difficult time without him.

A couple years ago I turned to Gil once again. I was being sued by an NFL lending company because my friend/mentor said in a deposition that he gave me money from his retirement loan with the NFL. Gil handled this nightmare and got it all straightened out. He was able to get the company to dismiss my case after a few depositions and phone calls. Gil has helped many friends and family over the years from Shannon Cogburn, BJ Dennard, Marche Dennard, and countless others. He's continued to support me and my family as a friend and as a mentor. Amare still thinks very highly of Gil as well. In fact, Amare and I wanted Gil to chair our board for an AAU basketball team we manage. He respectfully declined because of other commitments.

Over the years, he's done a lot for me personally. Gil also helped my son Priest with college recruiting when he was Arizona's Gatorade High School Player of the Year in Football. In fact when my son switched schools from St. Mary's to Marcos De Niza after his freshman year, Gil helped ensure that my son got his transcripts so he could still play ball. At the time, the school was holding them hostage because I fell behind on payments at the school. Long story short, he always gets the job done.

There's probably more I could share that Gil has done for me and others but I'm trying to keep this simple and sweet. He's just a great guy that coaches, kids, friends, family, all love and respect. I gladly write this letter to tell you the countless times I've counted on Gil and him being there for me and my family. It's rare to find a selfless man who treats others like family and goes the extra mile. You can call me to discuss anything further.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Walker", written over a horizontal line.

Michael Walker

(480)576-0707