

LEILA L. HALE
(Public Reprimand)

The Professional Conduct Board has issued a Public Reprimand to Nevada lawyer, Leila L. Hale, based on professional misconduct.

The Professional Conduct Board Order followed a stipulated resolution of an Idaho State Bar reciprocal disciplinary proceeding. On January 28, 2020, the State Bar of Nevada, Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board, issued a Public Reprimand to Ms. Hale for violating Nevada Rules of Professional Conduct 1.5 [Fees] and 5.3 [Responsibilities Regarding Non-Lawyer Assistants]. Those Nevada Rules of Professional Conduct correspond to those same Idaho Rules of Professional Conduct. The Public Reprimand relates to the following facts and circumstances.

Pursuant to an office policy, Ms. Hale sent a non-attorney employee to conduct home visits to two personal injury clients. During those visits, the firm employee presented the potential clients with retainer agreements and various other legal documents. The firm employee read through those documents with the clients and advised one of the clients about potential attorney's liens that may be filed by her already retained counsel if she were to switch counsel. The Nevada Board found those home visits constituted the unauthorized practice of law and that Ms. Hale violated her responsibilities under Nevada Rule of Professional Conduct 5.3 regarding supervising non-lawyer assistants.

In addition, the retainer agreements presented to those clients provided that in the event of withdrawal by Hale Law or early discharge of Hale Law, the client would be responsible for, at minimum, a combined firm rate of \$1,000 per hour for all attorney and

staff time. The Nevada Board found such an agreement was an unreasonable fee and violated Nevada Rule of Professional Conduct 1.5.

The Public Reprimand does not limit Ms. Hale's eligibility to practice law.

Inquiries about this matter may be directed to: Bar Counsel, Idaho State Bar, P.O. Box 895, Boise, Idaho 83701, (208) 334-4500.