

**PRACTICE OF LAW BOARD
STATE OF WASHINGTON**

1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 600, Seattle, WA 98101-2539
(206) 727-8252 ■ Fax (206) 727-8314

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December 30, 2009

Ronald Rodis
Rodis Law Group

Orange, CA

RE: File No. 09-35 Unauthorized Practice of Law Complaint
against Ronald Rodis/Rodis Law Group

Dear Mr. Rodis:

The Practice of Law Board was created by order of the Washington State Supreme Court, General Rule (GR) 25. The Board is charged with the investigation of allegations of unauthorized practice of law in Washington. Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 2.48.180 states that a nonlawyer practicing law or holding himself out as entitled to practice law constitutes the unauthorized practice of law. Court rule GR 24 defines the practice of law. The unauthorized practice of law is a crime in Washington.

Washington resident J [REDACTED] G [REDACTED] P [REDACTED] has filed a complaint against you alleging that you engaged in the unauthorized practice of law by agreeing to renegotiate Mr. G [REDACTED] P [REDACTED]'s mortgage contract for \$3,500. You are not admitted to the practice of law in Washington State.

Mr. G [REDACTED] P [REDACTED] lost his job in January 2009 and could not make payments on his home in Sedro Woolley, Washington. His nephew found information for your California law firm, Rodis Law Group, online and contacted you. On March 31, 2009, Mr. G [REDACTED] P [REDACTED] signed a retainer agreement, which you also signed on behalf of Rodis Law Group. The agreement states that the client retains the firm to represent the client in the matter of: Mortgage contract modification/renegotiation of property at [REDACTED], Sedro Wooley [sic], WA [REDACTED]. The retainer agreement contains a provision for a non-refundable retainer of \$3,500, which Mr. G [REDACTED] P [REDACTED] paid. Mr. G [REDACTED] P [REDACTED] states that your law firm did not return any of his phone

calls and have done nothing to help him with his mortgage. According to the California Bar Association, you resigned your license to practice law in the state of California on October 19, 2009. Mr. G [REDACTED] P [REDACTED] has declared bankruptcy, is in the process of losing his home, and has ruined credit.

The Washington State Department of Financial Institutions issued an Interpretive Statement, dated April 10, 2009, stating that companies and individuals offering loan modification services to Washington residents regarding their Washington real property must be licensed under the Mortgage Broker Practices Act, the Consumer Loan Act, or be otherwise exempt. A Washington-licensed lawyer is exempt.

You are not a Washington-licensed lawyer. In the state of Washington, you are a non-lawyer. RCW 2.48.180(2)(a) states that a non-lawyer practicing law or holding himself out as entitled to do so constitutes the unauthorized practice of law. Negotiation of legal rights or responsibilities on behalf of another entity or person(s) is included in the GR 24 definition of the practice of law.

At this time, pursuant to GR 25(f)(4)(B), we request that you enter into a written agreement with this Board, to refrain from the following conduct:

- Holding yourself out as entitled to practice law in the state of Washington; and
- Negotiation of legal rights or responsibilities on behalf of another entity or person(s); and
- Engaging in any activity which is defined as the practice of law in GR 24.

We further ask you to stipulate that in the event you violate this agreement, you agree that this stipulation, evidence of your further violation, the investigative report to the Board of your past violations, the original complaint, your response, and all other evidence of such violations shall be turned over to the appropriate County Prosecutor's Office with a request from the Board that that office institute a criminal proceeding against you.

In the event you do not return this stipulation as signed and agreed to within 15 days of the mailing of this letter, the Board may send this report and the contents of our investigation file to the appropriate police or prosecutor's office.

This letter finding that you engaged in the unauthorized practice of law in Washington constitutes final board action. If you disagree with the Practice of Law Board's final action, you may seek review by filing a Notice of Petition for Review with the Washington Supreme Court. The Notice must be filed within 30 days of final Practice of Law Board action. You must serve the original Notice of Petition for Review on the Supreme Court Clerk and a copy on the Practice of Law Board. Your Notice must set out you name and address, the name and

address of your counsel, if any, and a concise statement of the reason for your appeal. Your Petition must comply with the Rules of Appellate Procedure (RAP). For further information on Petitions for Review, please see GR 25(g).

We are hopeful that we will be able to resolve these matters by stipulation. If you are willing to so stipulate, please sign and date your signature and have your signature witnessed by a person over the age of eighteen, who will also sign as the witness. The signed letter should be returned to the Board within 15 days.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy C. Ivarinen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N" and a long, sweeping underline.

Nancy C. Ivarinen, Chair
Practice of Law Board

Enclosure: Agreement to Refrain

JS:as

cc: J [REDACTED] G [REDACTED] P [REDACTED] (w/out enclosure)