

## ATTORNEY REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION of the SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS www.iardc.org

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> Paul Dulberg 4606 Hayden Court McHenry, IL 60051

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Thomas Kost 423 Dempster Street Mount Prospect, IL 60056

Chicago January 14, 2025

Re: Alphonse A. Talarico

in relation to Paul Dulberg Thomas Kost No. 2024IN00264

Dear Mr. Dulberg and Mr. Kost:

We have concluded our inquiry in the above matter and have determined that there is not a sufficient basis for further action by this Commission.

You told us that you hired attorney Alphonse Talarico to represent Mr. Dulberg in his claims against his former attorneys. You believe that Mr. Talarico failed to report Mr. Dulberg's former attorneys for misconduct to this agency. You also do not believe that Mr. Talarico adequately represented Mr. Dulberg.

As we previously advised you, the duties of the ARDC are primarily limited to investigating and prosecuting allegations of professional misconduct against attorneys. When we have sufficient evidence of serious misconduct by an attorney, we may initiate proceedings seeking disciplinary sanctions against the lawyer, such as suspension or disbarment from the practice of law. Because of our limited duties, the Commission generally does not act on disagreements concerning the value of an attorney's services.

Mr. Talarico, through counsel, maintained that he zealously represented Mr. Dulberg. He provided us with a description and list of the services he provided to Mr. Dulberg. The documents we reviewed appear to reflect that the attorney took actions reasonably calculated to achieve Mr. Dulberg's legal goals and, thus, we would not be able to prove that Mr. Talarico failed to provide Mr. Dulberg with the legal services he was obligated to provide.

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Mr. Talarico denied that he became aware of any actions by any attorney involved in Mr. Dulberg's matters that gave rise to his reporting obligation under Rule 8.3 of the Illinois Supreme Court Rules of Professional Conduct ("IRPC"). He claimed that he had no first-hand knowledge of your accusations against the subject attorneys.

As you may know, Supreme Court Rules require that this Commission establish all elements of a violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct by clear and convincing evidence. Based on the information that we reviewed, we would not be able to prove that Mr. Talarico's determination that he did not have an obligation to pursue your misconduct allegations against the named attorneys violated the IRPC.

For the foregoing reasons, we have determined that a formal disciplinary prosecution of Mr. Talarico, based on your complaints, would not be successful. Accordingly, we are closing our file in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Myrrha B. Guzman

Myrrha B. Guzman Senior Counsel ARDC Intake Division

MBG:kof

Paul Dulberg Thomas Kost January 14, 2025 Page 2

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