



General Legal Council

**General Legal Council office
High Court of Belize
Regent Street,
Belize City
Belize C.A**

December 03rd, 2024

Miss Trienia Young
Registrar
Supreme Court of Belize
Treasury Lane
Belize City
Belize

Dear Madam Registrar,

Re: Complaint 19 of 2024- Gilroy Ciego v Ian Gray

We write in relation to the captioned matter.

In accordance with section 17 (2) of the Legal Profession Act Cap 320 Revised Edition 2020, the General Legal Council hereby submits the enclosed decision issued in Complaint 19 of 2024- Gilroy Ciego v Ian Gray.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wallace".

Kimberly Wallace
Secretary
Bar Association of Belize/ General Legal Council

Encl: Decision of Complaint 19 of 2024

Contact us: Tel: (501) 227-0818/614-5157; Email: secretarybelizeglc@gmail.com

GENERAL LEGAL COUNCIL

IN THE MATTER OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION ACT

Complaint No. of 2024

BETWEEN:

GILROY CIEGO

COMPLAINANT

and

IAN GRAY

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

PANEL:

Mr. Justice Rajiv Goonetilleke (Chair)

Mrs. Magali Marin-Young SC

Mrs. Cheryl-Lynn Vidal SC

Mrs. Ashanti Arthurs Martin

Ms. Vanessa Retreage

Ms. Samantha Matute

Mr. Adler Waight

Date of Hearing: November 22, 2024

Appearances

Gilroy Ciego appearing unrepresented in person

Mr. Hubert Elrington, SC and Mr. Simeon Sampson SC for Mr. Ian Gray

DECISION

Introduction

1. This is the General Legal Council's (**Council's**) decision on a complaint brought by Mr. Gilroy Ciego, Logger of 28 Flamingo Street, Belize City, Belize, against Attorney-at-Law, Ian Gray (**Mr. Gray**), a sole practitioner.
2. By complaint dated September 24, 2024, Mr. Ciego alleges, in summary, that Mr. Gray failed to provide "full representation" for his bail application to the High Court. Mr. Ciego further alleges that Mr. Gray was untruthful with regard to the conduct of his bail application and misrepresented the status of the matter.
3. Mr. Gray responded to the Complaint and denied that he was either untruthful or misrepresented facts in the conduct of Mr. Ciego's bail application. To support his assertions, Mr. Gray, among other things, submitted to the Council copies of at least two (2) Petitions for Bail filed on behalf of Mr. Ciego in the High Court as well as a supporting Affidavit. Mr. Ciego, in support of his case, submitted to the Council a copy of a receipt purportedly issued by Mr. Gray for the payment of a retainer in the amount of \$2,500.00
4. The matter was heard on November 22, 2024 and at the close of the hearing, the Council reserved its decision.

Findings of the Council:

5. Having considered the documentary evidence before the Council and the oral evidence given by both Mr. Ciego and Mr. Gray, the panel makes the following observations:
 - a. Mr. Gray was retained by Mr. Ciego's employer, one Mr. Moody, to petition the High Court on behalf of Mr. Ciego for him to be admitted to bail. Mr. Moody paid legal fees and was the person in primary contact with Mr. Gray.
 - b. Mr. Gray petitioned the Court for bail on Mr. Ciego's behalf twice between the months of October 2023 and December 2023. Mr. Gray attended Court for the hearing of the Petitions on each occasion (including adjourned dates thereof).
 - c. Both bail petitions filed by Mr. Gray were denied by the Court upon full hearings.
 - d. Mr. Ciego was present in Court (either in person or virtually) and understood that his applications for bail had been denied. Mr. Ciego also understood that his petitions were denied largely because the virtual complainant in his criminal matter

had impressed upon the High Court, through affidavit evidence, her fear of Mr. Ciego if he were released on bail.

- e. Mr. Ciego (through his family members) ultimately obtained the services of another attorney. Through the efforts of his other attorney, he was admitted to bail on June 19th, 2024. Mr. Gray does not dispute this.
6. Mr. Ciego rested his complaint on the allegation that Mr. Gray was untruthful and misrepresented the status of his case. Mr. Ciego alleged that Mr. Gray represented to a third party, who was not called as a witness, that he (Mr. Gray) had secured bail for Mr. Ciego in June of 2024, when in fact it was the efforts of another attorney that caused Mr. Ciego to be released on bail. In giving his evidence, Mr. Gray did not represent that he secured bail for Mr. Ciego. Mr. Gray conceded that bail was obtained through the efforts of another attorney. Mr. Gray denied ever making such a representation.
7. Mr. Ciego also complains that he had given Mr. Gray written authorization to attend the police station to collect his personal belongings while he was on remand; but that Mr. Gray misrepresented that the police had misplaced his items. Mr. Gray did not tell him this personally, but this message was relayed to Mr. Ciego through a third party who did not appear before the Council. Mr. Gray acknowledged receiving the authorization and gave evidence that he did in fact attend the police station but was unable to collect Mr. Ciego's belongings. Mr. Ciego personally collected his belongings when he secured bail.
8. There is no evidence before the Council which would suggest that Mr. Gray did not attend the police station to collect Mr. Ciego's belongings as he was authorized to do. The Council finds that there is no evidence to establish that the failure to secure Mr. Ciego's personal belongings was a result of lack of effort on Mr. Gray's part.

Conclusion

9. Considering all the material placed before this Council, we are of the view that Mr. Gray is not guilty of professional misconduct. Mr. Gray performed the services he was retained to

perform (i.e. applied for bail and attended the hearings of the Petitions on two separate occasions within a three-month period [October to December 2023] and attended multiple court hearings at the Magistrate Court in relation to the substantive charge against Mr. Ciego), or caused a member of his officer to attend in his stead. Mr. Gray was aware of the fact that bail was ultimately secured for Mr. Ciego in June of 2024 by another attorney.

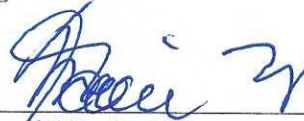
10. While Mr. Ciego was understandably frustrated at the fact that he remained on remand until June of 2024, the failure to secure bail was not as a result of inaction on Mr. Gray's part. The Council recognizes that Mr. Gray could have communicated more frequently and clearly to Mr. Ciego regarding the efforts made on his behalf; however, in the circumstances outlined above that does not amount professional misconduct. In order to avoid the inconvenience of having any further complaints against him, this Council trusts that Mr. Gray will ensure more effective communication with clients in the future.

Dated the 29th of November, 2024

By the General Legal Council



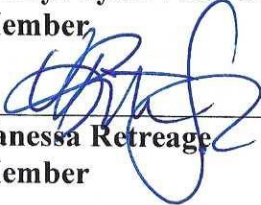
Mr. Justice Rajiv Goonetilleke
Chairman



Magali Marin-Young SC
Member




Cheryl-Lynn Vidal SC
Member



Vanessa Retreage
Member



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Member



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Member



Adler Waight
Member