

FILE NO. _____

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

In Re Petition for Disciplinary
Action against AMBER JULIE AHOLA,
a Minnesota Attorney,
Registration No. 262250.

**PETITION FOR
DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

The Director of the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility, hereinafter Director, files this petition upon the parties' agreement pursuant to Rules 10(a) and 12(a), Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility. The Director alleges:

The above-named attorney, hereinafter respondent, was admitted to practice law in Minnesota on December 5, 1995. Respondent currently practices law in Cass Lake, Minnesota.

Respondent has committed the following unprofessional conduct warranting public discipline:

FIRST COUNT

1. In or about May 2010, respondent, in her capacity as an attorney with Regional Native Public Defense, was court-appointed to represent John Jerrod Jones with regard to a probation violation and felony charges filed against him in Cass County. Jones remained in custody from approximately April 30, 2010, until April 5, 2011, when he was released from prison and ordered to serve 90 days at the Brainerd Regional Human Services Center, Aurora Four Winds Lodge Treatment Program ("Four Winds") in Brainerd. At all times relevant, respondent was Jones' attorney.

2. On April 15, 2011, ten days after entering Four Winds and prior to the completion of his required stay, Jones absconded from the facility. After contacting

several friends, Jones telephoned respondent and requested that she pick him up in Brainerd.

3. As Jones' attorney, respondent was aware of the length of his sentence and should have realized that he had absconded from Four Winds. Respondent nonetheless drove from Bemidji to Brainerd on April 15, 2011, to pick up Jones. Respondent then transported Jones to Bemidji, dropped him off on Sunnyside Road and did not see him for the remainder of the weekend.

4. A warrant was subsequently issued for Jones' arrest. Respondent has admitted that, based on a conversation with Jones, she had knowledge of the warrant.

5. On April 18, 2011, Jones contacted respondent and requested her assistance in turning himself in to Beltrami County authorities.

6. Respondent did not, at any time between April 15 and April 18, 2011, notify law enforcement authorities that: (1) Jones had escaped; (2) Jones had contacted her; (3) Jones intended to turn himself in; or (4) Jones would be arriving at her home.

7. On the evening of April 18, 2011, Jones arrived at respondent's home. That same day, at approximately 7:37 p.m., the Beltrami County Sheriff's Office received information from a drug task force member that Jones was present at respondent's home. A sheriff's deputy drove by respondent's residence a short time later and observed a male fitting Jones' description inside respondent's home.

8. Shortly after observing Jones inside respondent's home, a sheriff's deputy arrived at her home and inquired of respondent as to whether Jones was inside. Respondent denied that Jones was present. The deputy then advised respondent that he had information indicating that Jones was present in the home and that Jones had an outstanding warrant. The deputy again asked respondent if Jones was at her residence. Respondent again denied that Jones was present. The deputy again advised respondent that Jones was subject to an outstanding warrant, informed her that law enforcement could obtain a search warrant for her home and advised her that she could be charged

with harboring a fugitive. Respondent then admitted that Jones was present inside the residence.

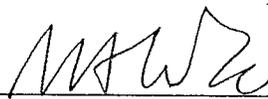
9. The matter was submitted to the Beltrami County Attorney's Office for consideration of charges against respondent for harboring a fugitive under Minn. Stat. § 609.495, subdiv. 1(a) and/or (b). The county attorney stated that he believed there was ample evidence to support a charge against respondent for this offense, but declined to prosecute the matter because of credibility and other issues.

10. Respondent's conduct in repeatedly lying to law enforcement officials when questioned about Jones' presence in her home subsequent to his escape from Four Winds violated Rules 4.1 and 8.4(c) and (d), Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct (MRPC).

11. Respondent's conduct in harboring Jones, a criminal fugitive, violated Rule 8.4(b), MRPC.

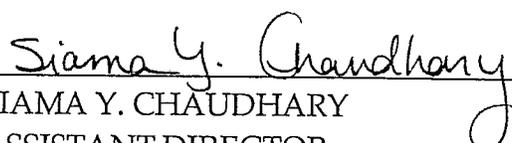
WHEREFORE, the Director respectfully prays for an order of this Court imposing appropriate discipline, awarding costs and disbursements pursuant to the Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility, and for such other, further or different relief as may be just and proper.

Dated: August 15, 2012.



MARTIN A. COLE
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF LAWYERS
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
Attorney No. 148416
1500 Landmark Towers
345 St. Peter Street
St. Paul, MN 55102-1218
(651) 296-3952

and



SIAMA Y. CHAUDHARY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Attorney No. 350291