

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

In Re Petition for Disciplinary
Action against ALBERT B. BEETY,
a Minnesota Attorney,
Registration No. 6154.

**PETITION FOR
DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Upon the approval of a Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board Panel Chair, the Director of the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility, hereinafter Director, files this petition pursuant to Rules 10(d), 10(e), and 12(a), Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility (RLPR). The Director alleges:

The above-named attorney, hereinafter respondent, was admitted to practice law in Minnesota on April 15, 1977. Respondent's license to practice law is currently suspended for failure to pay his attorney registration fee and failure to comply with continuing legal education (CLE) requirements.

Respondent has committed the following unprofessional conduct warranting public discipline:

FIRST COUNT

1. From 1994 through September 2012, respondent was employed at Best Buy Enterprises Services, Inc. (Best Buy) as corporate counsel.
2. While employed as corporate counsel at Best Buy respondent engaged in the practice of law. Respondent negotiated contracts, drafted real estate leases, advised Best Buy on legal matters, and supervised other attorneys in Best Buy's legal department.
3. During the entire time respondent was employed at Best Buy his license to practice law was suspended for his failure to pay his attorney registration fee and his failure to comply with CLE requirements.
4. Respondent's practice of law while employed at Best Buy and while not licensed to practice law in the State of Minnesota constitutes the unauthorized practice of law.

5. Respondent's conduct in engaging in the unauthorized practice of law violated Rule 5.5(a), Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct (MRPC).

SECOND COUNT

6. On March 6, 2014, the Director mailed to respondent a notice of investigation. That notice instructed respondent that the misconduct to be investigated included possible violations of Rule 5.5, MRPC, pertaining to the unauthorized practice of law based upon a Minnesota Court of Appeals Opinion in the matter of *Albert Beety vs. Best Buy Enterprises Services, Inc.* (2014 WL 684686). The notice requested a full written explanation of the matter under investigation within two weeks. The notice was mailed to respondent at his attorney registration address of 7700 France Avenue South, Edina, MN 55435.

7. On March 17, 2014, the March 6 notice of investigation was returned to the Director as undeliverable by the U. S. Post Office.

8. On March 19, 2014, the Director re-mailed the notice of investigation to respondent at 2193 Stone Creek Drive, Chanhassen, MN 55317. As of the date of this petition, that mailing has not been returned to the Director by the U. S. Post Office.

9. On April 17, 2014, having received no response to the notice of investigation, the Director wrote to respondent at the Chanhassen address requesting a response and noting that failure to respond may constitute a separate disciplinary offense pursuant to Rule 8.1(b), MRPC, and Rule 25, RLPR.

10. As of the date of this petition, respondent has not responded to the Director's March 6, 2014, notice of investigation.

11. On July 25, 2014, the Director mailed to respondent, notice of panel procedures, and notice of panel assignment (hereinafter collectively referred to as "the charges"). The charges were mailed to respondent at the Chanhassen address noted above and a second address in Chanhassen, 7750 Snap Dragon Drive.

12. Pursuant to Rule 9(a), RLPR, respondent was required to, within 14 days, submit a written answer to the charges.

13. The 14 day period within which to submit an answer (allowing an additional three days due to notification by mail, per Rule 6, Minnesota Rules of Civil Procedure) expired on August 11, 2014.

14. Respondent did not submit an answer to the charges within the time required by Rule 9, RLPR.

15. Respondent's conduct in failing to respond to the March 6, 2014, notice of investigation and in failing to submit an answer to the charges violated Rule 8.1(b), MRPC, and Rule 25, RLPR.

WHEREFORE, the Director respectfully prays for an order of this Court suspending respondent or imposing otherwise 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 13, 2014.



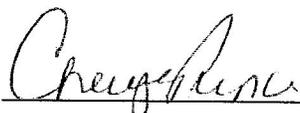
MARTIN A. COLE
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF LAWYERS
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
Attorney No. 148416
1500 Landmark Towers
345 St. Peter Street
St. Paul, MN 55102-1218
(651) 296-3952

and



PATRICK R. BURNS
FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Attorney No. 134004

This petition is approved for filing pursuant to Rules 10(d) and 12(a), RLPR, by the undersigned Panel Chair.

Dated: 8/19, 2014. 

CHERYL M. PRINCE
PANEL CHAIR, LAWYERS PROFESSIONAL
RESPONSIBILITY BOARD