

FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

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In Re Petition for Disciplinary Action  
against FRANCES S. LI,  
a Minnesota Attorney,  
Registration No. 143418.  
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**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 October 15, 1982. Respondent currently practices law in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Respondent has committed the following unprofessional conduct warranting public discipline:

DISCIPLINARY HISTORY

A. On April 11, 2011, respondent was issued an admonition for failing to ensure that Alan Albrecht, a suspended attorney in her employ, complied with the limitations imposed by Rule 5.8, Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct (MRPC).

FIRST COUNT

Failure to Supervise

1. Respondent is the owner and sole attorney at the law firm of Thao & Li, P.A.

2. On or about April 1, 2010, Alan Albrecht was suspended from the practice of law by order of the Minnesota Supreme Court.

3. On or about May 1, 2010, respondent entered into a written agreement with Albrecht, in which Albrecht agreed to provide paralegal services for respondent's law firm. The agreement specified that Albrecht would not receive, disburse, or handle money from clients, and that he would not render legal advice to clients or engage in any activity that constituted the practice of law.

4. On or about August 7, 2011, Joseph McKee ("McKee") signed a written retainer agreement with respondent's firm, in which he hired Thao & Li, P.A., to represent him in his bankruptcy filing. Respondent did not meet with McKee, interview McKee, collect any information directly from McKee, or negotiate the terms or payment schedule for the representation. Albrecht conducted all communication with McKee on behalf of Thao & Li, P.A., in relation to the initiation of the bankruptcy representation.

5. On or about August 16, 2011, an associate of McKee personally delivered a \$600 check to Albrecht for payment of legal fees related to McKee's bankruptcy. Albrecht then contacted respondent and requested authorization to deposit the payment into an account held by Albrecht. Respondent granted such authorization.

6. Between August 7, 2011, and March 7, 2012, McKee did not meet with respondent regarding his bankruptcy. During the same time period, McKee did not directly communicate with respondent regarding his bankruptcy. Instead, it was the normal practice during the representation for respondent to communicate any legal advice, status updates, or requests for information to Albrecht, and for Albrecht to then transmit that information to McKee.

7. McKee received a discharge in his bankruptcy matter on December 6, 2011.

8. Respondent's failure to adequately supervise Albrecht, a suspended attorney in her employ, in that he received and handled client funds with her knowledge and explicit approval, and in that he rendered legal advice and consultation and engaged in activities that constituted the practice of law, violated Rule 5.8(b)(1), (5) and (6), 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: October 15, 2013.



*For* MARTIN A. COLE  
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and



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