

**People v. Andrea Christman. 13PDJo74 (consolidated with 13PDJo84). April 17, 2014.**

The Presiding Disciplinary Judge approved the parties' conditional admission of misconduct and suspended Andrea Christman (Attorney Registration Number 42796) for one year and one day. The suspension took effect April 17, 2014.

Christman represented a client in a child support matter in which the client noticed that outdated financial information had been used in a motion to modify child support. The client emailed Christman from September 2012 through May 2013 about her concerns and to request a refund of the unused portion of her retainer, but Christman failed to communicate with the client or take further action on the client's behalf. Christman thereby violated Colo. RPC 1.3 (diligence), 1.4(a)(3)-(4) (communication), 1.16(c) (seeking a tribunal's permission to withdraw), and 1.16(d) (protecting a client's interests upon termination of the representation).

In another client matter, Christman agreed to represent a client in a post-decree matter. When the client was accused of failing to comply with court orders, an advisement hearing on contempt was set, but Christman failed to appear. The court then attempted to contact Christman during the advisement but could not reach her. Through this conduct, Christman violated Colo. RPC 1.3, 1.4(a)(3)-(4), 1.16(c), and 8.4(d) (conduct prejudicing the administration of justice).

Christman also agreed to represent a client in an action involving partition of real property, though she had no prior experience in such matters. She did not obtain or request any documents other than the complaint for partition, file a response to the complaint, disclose any documents, or notify her client that a decree and order for partition had been issued, thereby contravening Colo. RPC 1.1 (competence), 1.3, and 1.4(a)(3).

On three occasions, Christman allowed a third-party vendor to automatically deduct funds from her trust account in violation of Colo. RPC 1.15(i)(2) (prohibits using a debit card or ATM card to withdraw trust account funds).

In three other client matters, Christman did not notify her clients that she had moved to New Mexico, yet she remained listed as counsel of record in these cases after she had moved. In these cases, Christman neglected her clients' legal matters, did not timely notify her clients of developments in their cases, and failed to respond to her clients' requests for communication. Christman thereby violated Colo. RPC 1.1, 1.3, 1.4(a)(3), 1.16(d).