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Adoption Attorneys**

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www.adoptionattorneys.org

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In the Matter of a Grievance Filed Against Mikal W. Grass:

Complainant,

v.

Mikal W. Grass.

Respondent.

Attorney publicly reprimanded

We review a report and recommendations filed by the investigatory panel recommending that the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys (the "Academy") Board of Trustees privately reprimand Mikal Grass ("Grass") in this matter. The Board of Trustees finds that Misconduct occurred and publicly reprimands Grass for the Misconduct described below.

Grass joined the Academy in 1993. He practices in Coral Gables, Florida. He has no previous discipline by the Academy.

On April 8, 2009 and April 9, 2009, Grass posted two Academy Listserv messages.

Article XIV of the Academy's By-laws provides that no member shall disparage any other person in any transmission sent by any Academy-established means of communication. The Academy's Listserv guidelines also prohibit the disparagement of any person in Listserv messages.

The investigatory panel found that the two Listserv messages posted by Grass contained a number of disparaging remarks. Specifically, (1) Grass disparaged a birth mother with regard to

her alleged drug use; (2) Grass disparaged his fellow AAAA colleagues through insinuations that fellow members have participated in illegal or immoral conduct.

The investigatory panel further found that Grass admitted that the remarks made in the April 8, 2009 and April 9, 2009 Listserv postings did include disparaging remarks and were in violation of the Academy's By-laws and rules pertaining to the Listserv.

The Board of Trustees finds that Grass committed Misconduct. In determining the appropriate discipline, the Board of Trustees considers the seriousness of the misconduct, the need to protect the public, the need to impress upon the attorney the seriousness of the misconduct, and the need to deter other attorneys from engaging in similar misconduct. Here, we are satisfied that a public reprimand is necessary to achieve those objectives.

THEREFORE, the Board of Trustees imposes the following discipline, pursuant to Grievance Procedures, Art VII.A.4:

Mikal Grass is publicly reprimanded. He is directed to cease and desist from the Misconduct described above in the future.

Dated: October 22, 2009

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By: Kathleen Hogan Morrison
President