

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINE OF
RONALD SEROTA, ESQ., BAR NO.
7904.

No. 54856

FILED

NOV 18 2009

THOMAS K. LINDEMAN
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY *[Signature]*
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

ORDER OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

This is a joint petition by the State Bar and attorney Ronald Serota for an order temporarily suspending Serota from the practice of law, pending the resolution of formal disciplinary proceedings against him. The petition and supporting documentation demonstrate that Serota misappropriated \$319,000 from his client trust account.

SCR 102(4)(a) provides, in pertinent part:

On the petition of a disciplinary board, signed by its chair or vice chair, supported by an affidavit alleging facts personally known to the affiant, which shows that an attorney appears to be posing a substantial threat of serious harm to the public, the supreme court may order, with notice as the court may prescribe, the attorney's immediate temporary suspension or may impose other conditions upon the attorney's practice.

We conclude that the documentation properly before us¹ demonstrates that Serota poses a substantial threat of serious harm to the public, and that his immediate temporary suspension is warranted under SCR 102(4)(a). Accordingly, we hereby order attorney Ronald Serota temporarily suspended from the practice of law pending the resolution of formal disciplinary proceedings against him.

In addition, pursuant to SCR 102(4)(a), (b) and (c), we impose upon Serota the following conditions:

1. Serota is precluded from accepting new cases and is precluded from continuing to represent existing clients effective immediately upon service of this order;

2. All proceeds from Serota's practice of law and all fees and other funds received from or on behalf of clients shall, from the date of service of this order, be deposited into a trust account from which no withdrawals may be made by Serota except upon written approval of bar counsel; and

¹Although the petition avers that it is supported by the affidavit of Phillip J. Pattee, we note that the supporting affidavit actually submitted is by Rob W. Bare and is based on hearsay rather than personal knowledge as required by SCR 102(4)(a). However, in this instance the error is harmless because Serota has admitted to the misappropriation and has joined in the petition seeking his temporary suspension.

3. Serota is prohibited from withdrawing any funds from any and all accounts in any way relating to his law practice, including but not limited to his general and trust accounts, except upon written approval of bar counsel.

It is so ORDERED.

L. Hardesty, C.J.
Hardesty

Parraguirre, J.
Parraguirre

Cherry, J.
Cherry

Gibbons, J.
Gibbons

Douglas, J.
Douglas

Saitta, J.
Saitta

Pickering, J.
Pickering

cc: Rob W. Bare, Bar Counsel
Kimberly K. Farmer, Executive Director, State Bar of Nevada
Law Offices of Ryan Alexander PLLC
Ronald N. Serota
Perry Thompson, Admissions Office, United States Supreme Court