



The State Bar of California

OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL

845 S Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017

Tel: 213-765-1000

Attorney Misconduct Complaint Form

| Your Contact Information | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|---------------------|--|
| First Name: Darryl | | Middle Name: Gerard | |
| Last Name: Cotton | | | |
| Address: 6176 Federal Blvd | | | |
| City: San Diego | State: CA | Zip: 92114 | |
| Email: indagrodarryl@gmail.com | | | |
| Home Phone: none | Work: none | Cell: 619.954.4447 | |

| Attorney's Information | | | |
|---|-----------|----------------------------|--|
| First Name: Mark | | Middle Name: Stephen | |
| Last Name: Skeels | | | |
| Address: Office of the San Diego City Attorney, 1200 3rd Ave Ste 700, | | | |
| City: San Diego | State: CA | Zip: 92101 | |
| Email: mskeels@sandiego.gov | | CA Bar License #: 209766 | |
| Home Phone: unknown | | Work Phone: (619) 533-5500 | |
| Cell Phone: unknown | | Website: | |

Have you or a member of your family complained to the State Bar about this attorney previously?

☐ YES ☒ NO

Did you hire this attorney?

☐ YES ☒ NO

Enter the approximate date you hired the attorney and the amount paid (if any) to the attorney.

Date: _____ Amount Paid: _____

What is your connection to this attorney? Explain briefly.

Skeels was the Deputy City Attorney who convinced my lawyer Robert Bryson (299566) to accept a guilty plea at my 03/15/17 arraignment.

Attorney's Information

Statement of Complaint

Include with your submission, a statement of what the attorney did or did not do that is the basis of your complaint. Please state the facts as you understand them. Do not include opinions or arguments. If you hired the attorney(s), state what you hired the attorney(s) to do. Additional information may be requested.

Skeels told Bryson and myself at the arraignment that he was dropping 3 misdemeanor charges in favor of a single health and safety code HS 11366.5(a) that after 3 years of probation would fall off my record. When I asked Skeels why the City was being so generous with this offer he told me that it was because I did not let my tenant open what had been an illegal dispensary that I had been told by my tenants attorney Quintin George Shammam (246926) could be done until such time that the illegal marijuana outlet had been raided by the City several more times. I did not take this advice and elected to evict the tenant. Thus Skeels reasoning seemed legitimate. So under advice of my then counsel Bryson I took the deal. Days later the City of San Diego began forfeiture action against my Real Property and filed an illegal Lis Pendens on my property. The minute I was confronted with the Forfeiture action I called Skeels and he told me that another department in the City handled that and he was unaware that was the consequence of my having signed that Plea Agreement. Skeels is full of it. I was in the conference room when Demian called him and Skeels was crowing over how he would take \$100K and the whole issue could be made to 'go away'. I was played by my attorneys and Skeels. Skeels knew that was unlawful forfeiture action. He knew my business was located at the property. Skeels is currently running to be appointed to the bench in San Diego. IMO he needs to be disbarred.

Related Court Case Information (If known)

Name of Court: Superior Court

Case Name: People v Cotton

Case Number: M233071

Approx. date case was filed: 03/15/17

Size of law firm complained about: NA

If you are not a party to this case, what is your connection with it? Explain briefly.

I am a party.

Translation Information☒ Not Applicable

The State Bar accepts complaints in over 200 languages. If you need translation services to communicate with the State Bar, please let us know by completing this section of the complaint form. We will communicate with you through a translation service in the language of your choice. Do you need translation services?

☐ YES☒ NO

Please state the language in which you need formal translation:

The State Bar's mission is to protect complainants regardless of their immigration status. Complainants who are unable to complete this form due to disability, language restrictions, or other circumstances may obtain help by calling the complaint line at 800-843-9053.

Attestation

☒ By checking this box I certify that all information on this form is true and correct. I understand that the content of my complaint can be disclosed to the attorney. I understand that I waive the attorney client privilege and any other applicable privilege between myself and the attorney to the extent necessary for the investigation and prosecution of the allegations.

Signature:



Date: 02/06/2020