



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	
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Attorney's Information			
First Name: Quintin		Middle Name: G	
Last Name: Shammam			
Address: 2221 Camino Del Rio S Ste 207			
City: San Diego	State: CA	Zip: 92108	
Email: quintin@shammamlaw.com		CA Bar License #: 246926	
Home Phone: unknown		Work Phone: (619) 444-0001	
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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.

In July 2015, Ramiz Audish introduced himself to me as a licensed cannabis retailer and showed me a City of San Diego (IB-170) form that identified my property as eligible for a Medical Marijuana Consumer Collective (MMCC) license. He told me these licenses were easy to acquire when the property met the SDMC set back requirements and that he and his attorney Quintin Shammam were adept at acquiring them. I had no interest in participating in an MMCC but with his team experience he convinced me to give him this opportunity. Everything seemed to be going along nicely until 02/18/16 when I was served with a civil lawsuit, City of SD v Cotton (37-2016-00005526) where I was being charged with running an unlicensed MMCC. I took the lawsuit to Audish and demanded to know why he had not acquired the business license to operate? Audish told me that it was in process and this suit would be dropped. He also assured me he would have another one of his lawyers, attorney Jeff Lake who specialized in civil matters, handle the response to the TRO the city was seeking to bar me from my property. Audish paid for Lake to represent me and on at the 03/15/16 TRO hearing Lake argued that as was acknowledged by the city in the original complaint there had been a rezoning of my property which meant that when Audish first rented the property it had been zoned for an MMCC but in January 2016 the city had arbitrarily rezoned so that my property was no longer eligible for an MMCC license. Lake argued at the hearing that I had not been properly notified of the rezoning and the judge subsequently denied the TRO. The city's response to that unfavorable ruling was to launch a criminal complaint against me. On 04/06/16 my property was raided by the SDPD. I did not have access to Audish's sublet and he was not on the property nor was his business open at the time of the raid. I cooperated fully with their search and no one was arrested. Within several hours of the raid Audish returned my phone calls and asked if he could come over. He was scared and I was really pissed that he had put me in this situation. Later that day Audish showed up apologizing for his lack of acquiring the MMCC license but he assured me that it was still in process and insisted I meet with Shammam to discuss how the rezoning process had created a delay but it would be overcome and Shammam would inform me of rights and options going forward now that this had become a criminal matter.

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.

On or about 04/07/16, in a meeting held at Quintin Shammam's law offices, in which both Audish and I were in attendance, Shammam told me that as a landlord, it was unlikely the city would prosecute me criminally. He also told me I could allow Audish to reopen because in the relatively new world of licensing cannabis operations 'the way these things worked' the City would respond to that reopening by shutting it down over and over until such time that the license to operate was granted. With that advice Audish agreed to accept all the responsibilities and costs for reopening the MMCC and would have Shammam represent me should a criminal complaint actually be filed. I considered what was being offered and told them that I was not willing to go through this type of ordeal. If they were able to acquire the proper license I would allow Audish to sublet the property but until then I was giving him 72 hours to completely vacate the premise. Audish did as requested and vacated the premises. Neither he nor Shammam ever contacted me thereafter with an update about how the so called licensing was proceeding and a few months later I received notice from the SD District Attorneys Office that no charges were to be filed. On 03/15/17 the City of San Diego filed criminal charges against me and Audish in People v Cotton et al (M233071) as a result of the raid. This took me completely by surprise because I thought the DA dismissal had effectively put the matter to rest. After hearing Shammam's 'advice' I was confident that I made the right choice in not letting Audish reopen. I also knew I would not be using Shammam in any form of representation in this matter as he had advised I do something that was kind of the normal approach to unlicensed MMCC businesses reopening but to me seemed like an entirely skewed way of acquiring proper licensing. Clearly his advice was to make Audish as much money as possible while I would face the repercussions of these civil and criminal charges. With the benefit of hindsight I believe Shammam should be sanctioned or even disbarred for his unethical approach to advising people how to violate local and state laws in the interest of short term financial gains. Of note; on 04/15/17 when Deputy City Atty Skeels offered me the 'generous' plea agreement to settle this case on one misdemeanor count (HS 11366.5a) he claimed he was doing so BECAUSE I did not take Shammam's advice. Of course he was full of shit too. Skeels wanted to apply asset forfeiture law to my property and steal it from me. I filed a CA-BAR complaint against him as well. All of these attorneys are unethical and work on screwing people over in an orchestrated attempt to violate our constitutional rights. This proves it.

Related Court Case Information (If known)

Name of Court: Superior Court

Case Name: People v Cotton et al

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