



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: Matthew		Middle Name: William	
Last Name: Shapiro			
Address: 7676 Hazard Center Dr, Ste 500, San Diego, CA 92108-4508			
City: San Diego	State: CA	Zip: 92108	
Email: matthew@shapiro.legal		CA Bar License #: 292542	
Home Phone: unknown		Work Phone: (858) 859-2420	
Cell Phone: unknown		Website: www.shapiro.legal	

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.

Shapiro is a fairly high profile cannabis lawyer here in San Diego. He works with several other noted cannabis attorneys here such as Aust and McElfresh. Shapiro had a conflict of interest issue arise when he told my then counsel in the Geraci v Cotton matter in a series of email that he had nothing to do with a competing CUP with mine that should the competitor get to the finish line first my CUP would be denied. What we came to find out by a fact witness, Corina Young, in the Geraci v Cotton case was that based on Shapiro representing both the competitor, Aaron Magagna and Young he would need to distance himself from any representation of Young in the Geraci v Cotton case. What Shapiro did was hire another attorney Natalie Nguyen (246753) to appear to act in accordance with my atty's request that Young be deposed for my case but instead (this is per Young) Nguyen was to use any means necessary to keep Young from providing testimony in the Geraci v Cotton matter even though by email correspondence between Jake Austin and Nguyen it would appear the Nguyen was doing everything possible to provide that testimony prior to trial. Young will also testify that Shapiro negotiates a fixed fee for every pound of cannabis that his unlicensed cannabis clients sell.

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.

Shapiro is part of an enterprise of cannabis attorneys based here in San Diego that take retainer fee's from unlicensed dispensary owners and work as a team to see that any licensed dispensary has to go through them. This information is all being made public in my federal complaint no; 18cv325-BAS (MDD). They share this information amongst themselves to see who should be awarded the license even though they are representing other clients who believe they have a fair shot at these limited licenses. The money those clients pay the attorneys is simply a hopeless loss even though they don't know that at the time they hire him. The CUP application fee's with the City of San Diego are also non-refundable and it is not unusual to see multiple applications seeking the same approval with only one being eligible based on Land Use Regulations. It's time this scheme and the fraud it perpetuates be exposed and attorney's like Shapiro be disbarred and even held criminally responsible for their actions.

Related Court Case Information (If known)

Name of Court: Superior Court

Case Name: Geraci v Cotton

Case Number: 37-2017-00010073

Approx. date case was filed: 03/21/17

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