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Press Release

Christiansburg Divorce Lawyer Jails CEO Over Child Support After Intentionally Omitting \$205,032 in Payments - His Client Actually Owed

A divorce lawyer in Christiansburg, Va., spent three years consulting and advising his client on the ups and downs of her situation related to leaving her husband of seven years. He knew of her adultery, being at fault, and committing fraud, yet forged ahead with laying a claim in May 2006 after the husband fired her from his business in April. Her lawyer was aware she did her planning from work, the same place she was fleecing, a business the husband owned long before they met.

After the husband was ambushed and a divorce crawled along, the husband's third lawyer by then began uncovering a long trail of deceit and unlawful legal filings by the wife and her attorney. He ultimately quit the case a year later over the unlawful actions of his colleague, unaware a mountain of evidence had accumulated, 180 degrees contrary to his fictitious allegations made for the wife. The wife's lawyer admitted he had no grounds for divorce in an email to her a day before filing.

The wife was the CFO of the husband's healthcare business. One of her areas of supervision was privacy policy. They recorded phone calls for insurance purposes and almost every keystroke of the information systems, including accounting for HIPAA.

The husband's lawyer described the matter in court as a premeditated divorce by the wife, which is not against the law, after she accused the husband of a constructed dissertation, even though she spent three years planning an exit and a number of adulterous relationships. Her lawyer admitted the husband is "charming and successful" in conversations. She complained to her lawyer about "prostitution" he had her doing.

The husband's lawyer was bound to report the wife's lawyer to both the judge in the case and the Virginia State Bar as required under the Virginia Bar Association Rules of Professional Conduct, but chose to drop his client instead, "for he had too many other cases with the wife's lawyer and someone out of town needs to handle it." The wife had gone as far as removing the husband from

his business bank accounts, buying an extra \$1 million life insurance policy for him, hiring her hairdresser to help embezzle, structuring his finances to favor her in a divorce, and stripping all the husband's and children's equity out of his businesses over that three-year period. They recruited elements from the local IRS office to lend a hand too. Her lawyer was on a contingency, which is illegal too.

Local law enforcement was so concerned they asked an FBI profiler instructor to take a look and listen to her recorded calls from work and interview co-workers. He later reported to the husband that he was shocked the husband was still alive as part of a threat assessment. He made a suggested list of lifestyle changes and recommendations.

Nine lawyers in all passed the husband around, each taking their slice of the pie, all the while never reporting their colleague to the State Bar under their Rules of Professional Conduct. The husband had to conduct his own two-day divorce hearing, in which the judge sat him down a year later with opposition, explaining his dilemma on matters and the option to appeal his decision to the Court of Appeals. The husband was able to source an appeals lawyer who advised him it was a criminal matter before quitting also, without completing the appeal. So much for a self-policing industry as the Virginia Bar Association claims to be.

At the heart of discovering the fraud is the wife's attorney's original trial book, with notes, which he accidentally gave the husband's attorney 30 days before their first scheduled hearing in '07. The forensic and valuation accountant hired by the wife was a semi-retired IRS Criminal Senior Agent and was fired from the case in a pre-trial conference. It seems he was aware of the frauds, millions missing, and provided a trial book made by the wife too containing such.

The husband's bank auditor had earlier referred the husband to the same agent in January 2006 for suspicion of embezzlement and a forensic "how to" in his cashless business. That agent was apparently already working for the wife's attorney and selectively forgot, instead pumping the husband for information.

The husband's lawyer never briefed him on the trial book's existence or related evidence from a trash pull by a private investigator. The husband assumed the trial books were all the same but was far from the truth. The wife's attorney produced a new trial book during that first hearing, made at 11 PM the night before after realizing his was missing, hoping his opponent would not

say anything. The husband's lawyer realized something was wrong on the fly as the hearing started. It was hard not to notice the new 1" binder lying on top of the original 4" already opened in court that morning, containing his opponent's notes.

The husband was sitting alone in the courtroom at their table when the wife and her lawyer appeared. Her lawyer dropped the new book as he passed by their table on the way to the judge's chambers where his lawyer was already in chambers passing time. One note stated all the trial books are different. The husband's lawyer already had their dictated and handwritten notes, emails, and recorded phone calls from the husband's business. The husband's lawyer realized and accused her lawyer of using different trial books during and after the hearing.

While that hearing was far from the end, the wife's attorney was called out on some of the trial book exhibits before the judge, but upon closer examination afterward revealed it was starkly different. Her original 4" book confirmed all the husband's allegations 100%, admitting her wrongdoing. After the husband's lawyer confirmed the wife made the trial book in a subsequent follow-up hearing, he quit, saying "he cannot be involved anymore," and sent the husband off to the next lawyer in line.

Three more lawyers later, the husband was forced to represent himself, and it was not until preparing for that appeal in 2012 that the judge suggested that he and his new lawyer, #9 by then, discover the 4" binder and 1" binder for the same hearing and begin to understand the reason for the switch out and lawyers quitting. It became apparent quickly, for the husband's lawyer left bright sticky notes in it for the next lawyer.

It was from that book the husband discovered at least \$6.3 million was missing from his business by the time it was over with, confirmed for sure in 2018. The husband had been carrying hugely incriminating evidence from lawyer to lawyer with the same outcome, taking his money and quitting when realizing the frauds. He assumed he was copied on the same, never realizing the ruse.

By this time the husband had been put in jail twice over child support, once for a year. The husband had more than \$200,000 overpaid in child support, almost none of it credited by the wife's lawyer. She had an income 4-5 times the husband's and should have been paying him based on fixed guidelines. A forensic accountant and his regular accountant testified in the first

hearing that the wife had “stripped” the businesses of equity and cash in those prior three years before filing with her lawyer and IRS help. All of this was before asking the husband to move out.

The ex-wife and her lawyer painted the husband as a fat cat in that first hearing, yet he worked the first ten years of his business without compensation and the next ten at an entry-level amount all the while the wife was making double to triple during her exit plans. That did not include at least another \$600,000 she embezzled in that three-year window or the \$6.3 million. Most of that \$600,000 was from the children’s estate set up by the husband years before. She was divorced from a wealthy husband after a few years who did not want kids before hitting a home run.