

Elena Sassower

From: Ghunise Coaxum <gcoaxum@flabar.org>
Sent: Friday, June 05, 2015 11:10 AM
To: elenaruth@aol.com
Subject: Unlicensed Practice of Law Investigation 20153035(18A)

Ms. Sassower:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation this morning I am sending you the information concerning your request for a formal advisory opinion.

This is the direct link to Florida Bar website that sets forth the process to request a formal advisory opinion. <http://www.floridabar.org/tfb/TFBLawReg.nsf/9dad7bbda218afe885257002004833c5/34fac28eda9ca382852579ac006aff21!OpenDocument>

Rule 10-9.1 of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar allows the Standing Committee on Unlicensed Practice of Law to issue proposed formal advisory opinions concerning activities which may constitute the unlicensed practice of law. Requests for advisory opinions must be in writing addressed to The UPL Department, The Florida Bar, 651 E. Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2300. The request for an advisory opinion must state in detail all operative facts upon which the request for opinion is based and contain the name and address of the petitioner. Rule 10-9.1(a)(2) defines petitioner as an individual or organization seeking guidance as to the applicability, in a hypothetical situation, of the prohibitions against the unlicensed practice of law.

No opinion may be entered with respect to any case or controversy pending in any court in Florida and no informal opinions shall be issued. Rule 10-9.1(c). The proposed advisory opinion is only an interpretation of the law and does not constitute final court action. If the Standing Committee agrees to accept the request for a formal advisory opinion, notice will be published and a public hearing will be held. At the hearing, the committee will take testimony from all interested individuals. Written testimony may also be submitted prior to the hearing. The holding of a hearing does not guarantee the issuance of a proposed formal advisory opinion.

After the hearing, the Standing Committee will vote on whether to issue a proposed formal advisory opinion and on the substance of the opinion. If the Standing Committee finds that the conduct constitutes the unlicensed practice of law, the proposed formal advisory opinion is filed with the Supreme Court of Florida. If the Standing Committee finds that the conduct does not constitute the unlicensed practice of law, the Standing Committee may publish the opinion in the Florida Bar News or the committee may file the proposed opinion with the Supreme Court of Florida.

The petitioner may file comments in support of or in opposition to the proposed formal advisory opinion. Interested parties with leave of the court may also file comments. The Standing Committee is given an opportunity to reply. Any party may request oral argument before the Court.

Additionally, your issues concerning your problems with Mr. Baum and the judges that you referenced, you would need to contact the Lawyer Regulation department of The Florida Bar since Mr. Baum is a member of The Florida Bar. I do not have the authority to pursue any complaints against Mr. Baum's conduct.

The Florida Bar accepts complaints against attorneys, investigates those complaints and prosecutes attorneys who engage in unethical conduct. For individuals who are unsure if a lawyer has acted ethically

or who are dissatisfied and wish to consider whether filing a complaint may be appropriate, The Florida Bar operates the Attorney Consumer Assistance Program (ACAP). The ACAP telephone number is toll-free: 1-866-352-0707.

As to any issues you may have concerning any members of the judiciary, you would need to contact The Judicial Qualifications Commission at the following link <http://www.floridajqc.com/>

Sincerely,

Ghunise L Coaxum
Bar Counsel
The Florida Bar
Unlicensed Practice of Law Department
The Gateway Center
1000 Legion Place, Suite 1625
Orlando, Florida 32801-5200
(407) 425-0473
(407) 841-5403 (fax)

Please note: Florida has very broad public records laws. Many written communications to or from The Florida Bar regarding Bar business may be considered public records, which must be made available to anyone upon request. Your e-mail communications may therefore be subject to public disclosure.