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July 20, 2015

Chief Judge A. Gail Prudenti Office of Court Administration 25 Beaver Street-11<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, New York 10004

REF: Commission on Statewide Attorney Discipline/Public Hearings

Honorable Judge Prudenti:

Regarding Chief Judge Lippman's announcement of the referenced Commission and public hearings to be held to examine the need for change in the area of discipline for professional misconduct by attorneys, I am submitting comments and supporting documentation with this letter. I am the mother and Legal Guardian of a disabled young woman with Autism, who now resides in Texas. I have alleged that her inheritance has been misappropriated, and I have submitted a formal complaint with evidence to the Grievance Committee, Ninth Judicial district, Westchester County, at the behest of the Westchester County District Attorney's office. I am submitting copies of the following correspondence, which outline the entire matter in detail, for your review:

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

- Copy of Letter from the D.A.'s office (Stephen Ronco) to Grievance Committee requesting an investigation – dated January 6, 2015.
- 2. TWO letters to me from Chief Counsel Gary Casella, from the Westchester County Grievance dated January 12, 2015.
- Copy of a letter to Michael Creaser, Third Judicial Department, Albany, NY – dated February 8, 2015-responding to his letter to me dated January 27, 2015.
- 4. Copy of Letter from Faith Lorenzo, to me, dated February 10<sup>th</sup> requesting my comments on Attorneys' answer to my allegations.
- 5. My letter to Faith Lorenzo dated March 18, 2015 -which is the

comprehensive timeline including a forensic accounting. My Accountant found evidence of a misappropriation of a New York State Tax Check which was to be deposited into the Estate account, but was actually Redirected by Joseph Pisani and deposited into his Personal account. (the amount being \$34,961.67)...please see page five of this letter.

I have seen the D.A., at their request, and an ongoing investigation Is taking place. To date, they have not heard from the Grievance Comm.

6. A copy of a Memorandum of Law submitted by Joseph Pisani in response To my objections to his serving as a Fiduciary to my daughter's estate, Dated July 31, 2007. Within this Memo Of Law, on page 8, there is a reference to a seemingly familiar relationship between Joseph Pisani and Chief Counsel of the Grievance Committee/ Professor Gary Casella. This could appear disturbing, if only judged on the merits of the Invitations Mr. Casella extended to a Felon such as Joseph Pisani. Despite his former stature as State Senator in the District of New Rochelle, Joseph Pisani was convicted at the Federal level for crimes and served jail time for over a year, probation, disbarred and reinstated by five Judges (also found in this deposition on page 8). Joseph Pisani did not seek nor receive his Relief of Disabilities from a New York State Parole Board until January of 2008, which would have prohibited him from serving as a Fiduciary...this was long after my daughter's father's Will was written by Pisani whereby he named himself co-Trustee and Co-Executor.

All of this information is clearly laid out in the aforementioned Memorandum of Law.

What is particularly troubling to me, at this juncture, given the amount of evidence submitted to the Grievance Committee is the apparent lack of interest. As the letters submitted to you will clearly outline, evidence was submitted in March, yet the District Attorney has not heard from this Committee to follow-up with an investigation. WE HAVE PROVEN THEFT. The District Attorney is following up on what I submitted to them. I had been called into the Investigations Unit in May to verify certain documents they have subpoenaed. They are taking the matter seriously...why isn't the Grievance Committee?

The Rules of Professional Conduct (RPC DR-9-102(B) clearly state: The Grievance Committee can request all checkbooks and check stubs, bank statements, prenumbered cancelled checks and duplicated deposit slips......and bank accounts which records the operations of the lawyers' practice of law'. (page ten of my letter to Faith Lorenzo enclosed). There is no Statute of Limitations for a perpetrated fraud upon the Court. Further, Joseph Pisani is direct violation of rules for a

## Page three

Trust for a Disabled person per the New York State Mental Hygiene laws and the DSS which state: Trustees may not spend any monies in the trusts that may affect the disabled individual .....any major expenditure such as the sale of real estate must be approved by DSS." Mr. Pisani liquidated an income-producing building left for the benefit of my daughter in excess of \$1.4 million (sold below prime market value), without notification to DSS.

In collusion was the Firm of D'Agostino Law Offices in Pleasantville, NY, which received all work for Pisani, and where Pisani is "Of Counsel". Joseph Rizzo, Attorney was responsible for handling documentation for which he did an abysmal job. (detailed and evidenced within letter to Grievance Committee). As Guardian for my daughter, I have been attempting to unearth information from Joseph Pisani since 2007. He has stonewalled and "shut down' all communications with the new Trustee, James Meyer and myself, also violating the Rules of Professional Conduct. Now, there is apparently further silence from the Grievance Committee.

At the risk of being redundant, the purpose of the enclosures I am submitting will outline the timeline of events. Any supporting documentation you might want to review, I will be happy to submit. Further, the question begs interest to the relationship between Mr. Casella and Joseph Pisani, which at the very least, appears conflicting.

Thank you for your attempts to resurrect a renewed faith within an already damaged system. Mistrust regarding the public's perception concerning the legal profession should and must be repaired.

Respectfully yours,

Ann Masotti

Mother and Legal Guardian

For Andrea Masotti

enclosures