

Complaints About Hanley Gurwin To The Michigan Attorney Grievance Commission

Theodore A. Golden, M.D.
1746 Bellwood Court
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
(248)626-2252

Appendix A-1

April 5, 2003

Robert L. Agacinski
Attorney Grievance Commission
243 W. Congress, Suite 256
Detroit, MI 48226-3259

Re: Hanley M. Gurwin, Esq.

Dear Mr. Agacinski:

This letter to the Attorney Grievance Commission will state my complaints of attorney misconduct against Mr. Gurwin.

Mr. Gurwin was the Court appointed mediator in a divorce case concerning [...], Oakland County Circuit Court.

The performance of Mr. Gurwin was unacceptable. He was unprofessional, unethical, not prepared or lacked expertise in preparing for the job, incompetent, lacked moral character, was not focused on the work, digressed from the issues in order to promote himself, and wasted a great deal of time.

I mentioned to Mr. Gurwin that I belonged to Congregation [...]. His immediate reply to me was that I had a gay rabbi. That was news to me. He then told me about other gay rabbies in town, and how he was an expert at identifying gays. He was so good that he identified a friend's four year old child as being gay. He then mentioned several rabbies whose divorces he handled. What is he saying about me to his clients and friends? Mr. Gurwin could not keep his mouth shut. I refer to Mr. Gurwin as Mr. Talky.

[My ex-wife told me after this complaint was filed that Mr. Gurwin discussed oral sex with Mrs. Glanz, her attorney, and herself when he met with them privately during mediation.]

Prior to the first mediation both sides gave Mr. Gurwin their list of the marital assets in order for him to prepare for the mediation. He charged for the preparation, which was incompetently done. At the first mediation session he reviewed my ex-wife's list of the marital assets that was prepared by her attorney. The list had several spelling errors. He zeroed in on the spelling errors, and informed everyone of the errors and made corrections. He stated that her list of the assets was better than the list that I presented. His lack of preparation, expertise, or order of priority concerning these matters prevented him from stating that her list contained errors that increased the marital assets by [many] dollars. Mrs. Glanz listed several assets twice. Financial information from my father's trust, which clearly was not part of the marital assets, was included on the list prepared by my ex-wife's attorney. The pension plan was doubled listed. Mr. Gurwin should have pointed out these serious financial discrepancies instead of focusing on the fact that Mrs. Glanz, the attorney, spelled Exxon with only one "x".

Mr. Gurwin made unnecessary, and derogatory comments about my ex-wife. [...]

Mr. Gurwin could not stay focused on the job. He would go off on a tangent telling anecdotal stories about his past cases or add unnecessary information for the purpose of promoting himself or his knowledge, educate or mentor the attorneys, or to be entertaining. He was a "windbag". His lack of preparation, useless, and verbose digressions prolonged the mediation sessions. I felt that he wasted a lot of time that my family was getting charged for at \$775 per hour when all of the attorney's fees were totaled. Five mediation sessions in all with no resolution. I was urged by my attorney to attend a sixth session. "Mr. Gurwin is your only hope to avoid a trial." I declined to see Mr. Gurwin a sixth time. Mr. Robbins knows my feelings about Mr. Gurwin.

Mr. Gurwin was not paid for the last two mediation sessions, \$2,850 according to Mr. Gurwin. He threatened to sue me in February, 2003, if he was not paid. I talked to Mr. Gurwin on February 19, 2003, about why I would not pay him. Mr. Gurwin wrote to Mr. Robbins the same day and talked to Mr. Robbins. The issue of the fees that I did not pay to Mr. Gurwin has been resolved. Mr. Gurwin reduced my 50% share from 1,425 to 1,000. Mr. Robbins paid the \$1,000 out of his own pocket. Mr. Robbins told me that he did not want to be involved or get caught in the middle.

Mr. Gurwin's letter of February 19, 2003, to Mr. Robbins and Randi P. Glanz stated that they violated the Court order that appointed him to be the mediator. The Judgement of Divorce was entered prior to Mr. Gurwin being paid or an agreement payment for satisfactory was reached. Why would three experienced family law attorneys, Mr. Gurwin, and the other two allow Judge Patrick Brennan to sign the Judgment of Divorce on November 1, 2001, while they were in violation of his order concerning the mediator's unpaid fees?

My ex-wife wanted to pay the balance of Mr. Gurwin's fee from our joint funds. She called Mr. Gurwin's office in October, 2001, and was told that our account had a zero balance, and no payment was made. On February 19, 2003, Mr. Gurwin's secretary confirmed to me that she did talk to my ex-wife about the account having a zero balance. Why was the account manipulated?

On November 1, 2001, my ex-wife and I signed the Judgement of Divorce at the Court, and Judge Brennan signed it. We did not see the Judge. I was prevented from voicing my complaints to the Judge about Mr. Gurwin. Mr. Gurwin was protected.

I am filing this complaint because Mr. Gurwin's attorney misconduct caused me to have to pay excessive legal fees to Mr. Robbins, prolonged the divorce proceedings, and caused emotional stress.

I hope that the Attorney Grievance Commission will review Mr. Gurwin's files and thoroughly investigate all of the issues that I have brought before you. It should be noted that Mr. Gurwin was appointed by Court order, and should be held to the highest standards. I hope that the Attorney Grievance Commission will concur with my allegations and find Mr. Gurwin guilty of attorney misconduct, and discipline him accordingly.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Theodore A. Golden, M.D.

Enclosures

Additional complaint against Hanley M. Gurwin in the following letter:

Theodore A. Golden, M.D.
1746 Bellwood Court
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
(248)626-2252

July 18, 2004

Robert L. Agacinski
Attorney Grievance Commission
243 W. Congress, Suite 256
Detroit, MI 48226-3259

Re: Hanley M. Gurwin, Esq. AGC File No. 1064/03

Dear Mr. Agacinski:

As you recall I filed a complaint against Hanley M. Gurwin, which is contained in the above file. I also filed a Complaint in the Nature of Mandamus with the Michigan Supreme Court. One of my complaints against Mr. Gurwin was unprofessional behavior. Unfortunately, the file was closed, and the Michigan Supreme Court did not issue a Writ of Mandamus to order you to pursue an investigation of Mr. Gurwin.

I recently spoke to my ex-wife concerning Mr. Gurwin's behavior while he was with her. She stated to me that he discussed "blow-jobs" with Randi P. Glanz, Esq. and herself. His discussion of oral sex with the two females was unprofessional, and a form of sexual harassment. My initial complaint against Mr. Gurwin stated that he could not control himself, and used the mediation sessions for his own personal entertainment. Mr. Gurwin was getting his jollies by verbally masturbating himself in front of the two women.

Mr. Gurwin's behavior was unethical, unprofessional, and detrimental to the mediation process.

Mr. Gurwin has made a name for himself in the legal community, and feels that he can act with impunity. Your lax enforcement of the attorney disciplinary process has enabled Mr. Gurwin to take advantage of the legal system in order to enrich and titillate himself at the expense of people like my ex-wife and myself who were in the process of divorce.

Mr. Gurwin should be disciplined for his acts of attorney misconduct. You have a duty to protect the integrity of the legal system and the people of Michigan from the Hanley Gurwins.

Sincerely,

Theodore A. Golden, M.D.

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