

**SUPREME COURT, APPELLATE DIVISION
FIRST JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT
DEPARTMENTAL DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE
61 BROADWAY, 2ND FLOOR
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10006
(212) 401-0800**

**Jorge Dopico
Chief Counsel**

DATE: November 3, 2016

ATTORNEY COMPLAINED OF:

Mr.(X) Ms.() Mrs.() Cedeno, Peter L
Last First Initial

Address: 111 Broadway Apt. No. Suite 707
New York, New York 10006
City State Zip Code

Telephone: Home: () Office: (212) 235-1382
Cell : (201) 264-5611 Email Address: _____

YOUR NAME/INFORMATION (Complainant):

Mr.(X) Ms.() Mrs.() Luis X. Gironza
Last First Initial

Address: 376 Keap Street Apt. No. Apt. 27
Brooklyn, New New York 11211
City State Zip Code

Telephone: Home: () Office: ()
Cell : (917) 548-3053 Email Address: lxgironza@gmail.com

Complaints to other agencies:

Have you filed a complaint concerning this matter with another Bar Association, District Attorney's Office or any other agency:

If so, name of agency: N/A

Action taken by agency: N/A

Court action against attorney complained of:

Have you brought a civil or criminal action against this attorney? N/A

If so, name of court: N/A Index No. N/A

1. PLEASE SEND AN ORIGINAL AND ONE COPY OF YOUR COMPLAINT WITH ENCLOSURES. Please do not send original documents in your enclosures because we will not return them.
2. You may copy the enclosed form as many times as you wish, or you may find it online. Our website is: www.nycourts.gov. Go to the search bar and enter "disciplinary committee." Click on the link which says, "Departmental Disciplinary Committee."

- 3. You may also state your allegations in a letter. We request separate complaint forms/letters for each attorney in question.**

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY OR TYPE IN ENGLISH

Start from the beginning and be sure to tell us why you went to the attorney, when you had contact with the attorney, what happened each time you contacted the attorney, and what it was that the attorney did wrong. Please attach copies of all papers that you received from the attorney, if any, including a copy of ANY RETAINER AGREEMENT that you may have signed. DO NOT FORGET TO SEND AN ORIGINAL AND ONE COPY OF THIS COMPLAINT AND ENCLOSURES.

Please see enclosed letter and Exhibit.

UNSIGNED COMPLAINTS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED.

Signature

Supreme Court Appellate Division
First Judicial Department
Departmental Disciplinary Committee
61 Broadway, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10006

November 3, 2016

To Whom it May Concern:

Please accept this letter outlining the facts and circumstances of my Ethics Complaint against Peter L. Cedeño, Esq.

In or about 2010, I retained Mr. Cedeño to represent me in my divorce from my then wife. At the time, I was employed by Wilens and Baker, P.C. while Mr. Cedeño was the head of the matrimonial department at Wilens and Baker. As you can imagine, I assumed that Mr. Cedeño would diligently and zealously represent my interests in my divorce action as he was not just my lawyer but also my co-worker. Unfortunately, Mr. Cedeño was more interested in propositioning my now ex-wife and attempting to engage her in an illicit relationship than in advocating on my behalf.

At a hearing in 2010, Mr. Cedeño represented me at a Court appearance wherein he unreasonably coerced me to accept an extraordinarily unfavorable settlement arrangement which included an extremely high child support payment in light of the fact that custody was evenly split between myself and my ex-wife. Later, I came to discover that Mr. Cedeño negotiated this unfavorable deal with my ex-wife, who was unrepresented at the hearing, in order to gain her favor in an attempt to engage her in a sexual relationship. While Mr. Cedeño was purportedly “negotiating” the settlement arrangement with my ex-wife outside of my presence, he was instead representing to her that he would “take care of her” and obtain a “great deal” for her as a result of the negotiations. He further provided her with his personal phone number, requested that she

“friend” him on Facebook and attempted to secure a romantic dinner date with her in Queens. I have attached an e-mail conversation with my ex-wife which confirms Mr. Cedeño’s attempts to connect with her on Facebook.

At a later Family Court Appearance in 2012, where I was unrepresented, I was shocked to find that my ex-wife was represented by Julio Portilla, Esq. Mr. Portilla is a bankruptcy attorney who, to the best of my knowledge, has no matrimonial experience. Mr. Portilla was employed at Wilens and Baker at the same time as Mr. Cedeño and both left Wilens and Baker to start their own law firms at approximately the same time. Notably, Mr. Portilla and Mr. Cedeño share the same office suite at the time of the 2012 Court Appearance. I believe that Mr. Cedeño was effectively representing my ex-wife at the time of the 2012 Court Appearance although Mr. Portilla was representing her in name only in order to avoid a disqualifying conflict of interest. Ultimately, on August 21, 2012, Court Referee Mildred Negron agreed with me that Mr. Portilla’s representation presented a conflict of interest and disqualified Mr. Portilla from representing my ex-wife.

I believe Mr. Cedeño skirted the ethical rules in 2012 and failed to diligently represent me in 2010 in order to attempt to engage my ex-wife in an improper sexual relationship which has damaged me personally in light of the unfavorable settlement agreement which remains in effect.

Please do not hesitate to contact my attorneys, Joshua S. Bauchner, and Anthony J. D’Artiglio, with the law firm of Ansell Grimm & Aaron, PC, at (973) 247-9000, if you need any additional information or have any questions.

Sincerely,

Luis Xaiver Gironza
376 Keap Street, Apt #27

Brooklyn, New York 11211

enc.