

Colorado Supreme Court 2 East 14th Avenue Denver, CO 80203	DATE FILED: July 15, 2021 CASE NUMBER: 2020SA383
Original Proceeding in Unauthorized Practice of Law, 20UPL10	
Petitioner: The People of the State of Colorado, v. Respondent: Michelle Wohlman Pardo.	Supreme Court Case No: 2020SA383
ORDER OF INJUNCTION	

Upon consideration of the Petition for Injunction, the Order and Rule to Show Cause, the Answer, and Report of Hearing Master Under C.R.C.P. 236(a) filed in the above cause, and now being sufficiently advised in the premises,

IT IS ORDERED that the Respondent, MICHELLE WOHLMAN PARDO, shall be, and the same hereby is, ENJOINED from engaging in the unauthorized practice of law.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent, Michelle Pardo is assessed costs in the amount of \$224.00. Said costs to be paid to the Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel, within thirty-five (35) days from the date of this order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a fine be imposed in the amount of \$500.00. Said fine to be paid within thirty-five (35) days from the date of this order.

BY THE COURT, JULY 15, 2021.

SUPREME COURT, STATE OF COLORADO ORIGINAL PROCEEDING IN THE UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW BEFORE THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE 1300 BROADWAY, SUITE 250 DENVER, CO 80203	
Petitioner: THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO Respondent: MICHELLE WOHLMAN PARDO	Case Number: 20SA383
REPORT OF HEARING MASTER UNDER C.R.C.P. 236(a)	

In this unauthorized practice of law case, the Presiding Disciplinary Judge (“the PDJ”) recommends that the Colorado Supreme Court approve a stipulation to resolve the matter, enjoin Michelle Wolhman Pardo (“Respondent”) from further unauthorized practice of law, and require her to pay costs and a fine.

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On November 12, 2020, David Shaw, Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel (“the People”), filed a “Petition for Injunction” against Respondent, alleging she had engaged in the unauthorized practice of law. The Colorado Supreme Court issued an “Order to Show Cause” on November 13, 2020, directing Respondent to show cause why she should not be enjoined from the practice of law. After the Colorado Supreme Court granted her two extensions of time, Respondent filed an “Answer [to] Petition for Injunction” on March 11, 2021, through counsel R. Scott Reisch and Robert F. LeVeen Jr.

The Colorado Supreme Court issued an “Order of Court” on May 3, 2021, referring this matter to the PDJ for “findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations” under C.R.C.P. 234(f) and 236(a). The PDJ held a remote scheduling conference with the parties on May 14, 2021, and set the matter for a two-day hearing. On June 4, 2021, the parties filed a “Stipulation for Injunction.” In the stipulation, Respondent agrees to be enjoined from the practice of law. She also agrees to pay costs in the amount of \$224.00 and a fine of \$500.00.

II. ORDER AND RECOMMENDATION

The PDJ **ACCEPTS** the parties’ stipulation. Subject to the Colorado Supreme Court’s approval of the parties’ stipulation, the PDJ **VACATES** the prehearing conference on September 2, 2021, and **VACATES** the hearing on September 27 and 28, 2021.

The PDJ **RECOMMENDS** that the Colorado Supreme Court **APPROVE** the parties' stipulation and **ENJOIN** Respondent **MICHELLE WOHLMAN PARDO** from the unauthorized practice of law, as set forth in the parties' stipulation. The PDJ also **RECOMMENDS** that the Colorado Supreme Court **ORDER** Respondent to pay **COSTS** of \$224.00 within thirty-five days of the date of the Colorado Supreme Court's order. The PDJ further **RECOMMENDS** that the Colorado Supreme Court **FINE** Respondent \$500.00, to be paid within thirty-five days of the date of the Colorado Supreme Court's order.



DATED THIS 8th DAY OF JUNE, 2021.

William R. Lucero

WILLIAM R. LUCERO
PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE

Copies to:

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Cheryl Stevens
Colorado Supreme Court

Via Email

<p>SUPREME COURT, STATE OF COLORADO</p> <p>ORIGINAL PROCEEDING IN THE UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW BEFORE THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE</p> <p>1300 Broadway, Suite 250 Denver, Colorado 80203</p>	
<p>Complainant: THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO</p>	<p>▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲</p>
<p>Respondent: MICHELLE WOHLMAN PARDO</p>	<p>Case Number: 20SA383</p>
<p>David Shaw, #40453 Assistant Regulation Counsel Jessica E. Yates, #38003 Attorney Regulation Counsel Attorneys for Complainant 1300 Broadway, Suite 500 Denver, Colorado 80203 Telephone: (303) 928-7856 Fax No.: (303) 501-1141 Email: d.shaw@csc.state.co.us</p> <p>R. Scott Reisch, #26892 Matthew A. Shultz, #45461 Robert F. LeVeen, #41774 The Reisch Law Firm, LLC 1490 W. 121st Ave., Suite 202 Denver, CO 80234 Telephone: (303) 291-0555 Email: scott@reischlawfirm.com</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">STIPULATION FOR INJUNCTION</p>	

On this 4th day of June 2021, Petitioner, through the undersigned Assistant Regulation Counsel, and Michelle Wohlman Pardo, the Respondent, through her counsel, enter into the following stipulation and agreement consenting to an order of injunction (“stipulation”) and submit the same to the Presiding Disciplinary Judge for a finding and recommendation for

injunction pursuant to C.R.C.P. 228-240. As grounds, the parties state as follows and stipulate to all facts contained herein:

1. Respondent lives at 1029 Charlotte Court, Loveland, Colorado 80537.
2. Respondent is not licensed to practice law in Colorado or any other state.
3. Respondent enters into this stipulation freely and voluntarily. No promises have been made concerning future consideration, punishment, or lenience in the above-referenced matter. It is Respondent's personal decision, and Respondent affirms there has been no coercion or other intimidating acts by any person or agency concerning this matter.
4. Respondent is familiar with the rules of the Colorado Supreme Court regarding the unauthorized practice of law. Respondent acknowledges the right to a full and complete evidentiary hearing on the above-referenced petition for injunction. At any such hearing, Respondent would have the right to be represented by counsel, present evidence, call witnesses, and cross-examine the witnesses presented by Petitioner. At any such formal hearing, Petitioner would have the burden of proof and would be required to prove the charges contained in the petition for injunction by a preponderance of the evidence. Nonetheless having full knowledge of the right to such a formal hearing, Respondent waives that right.
5. Respondent understands that the practice of law in Colorado includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. providing advice to any other individual on the legal effect of any proposed action in a legal matter; or assisting that individual in making decisions that require legal judgment and a knowledge of the law that is greater than the average citizen;
 - b. providing advice to any other individual as to various legal remedies available to that individual and the possible legal courses of action for that individual;

- c. acting in a representative capacity on behalf of any other individual in matters that affect that individual's legal rights and duties;
- d. selecting or preparing any legal document for any other individual, other than solely as a typist; and, without limiting the above, explaining to that individual or any other individual the legal significance of such document;
- e. holding oneself out as an attorney, lawyer, "esquire", immigration consultant, or legal consultant, either directly or impliedly;
- f. holding oneself out to others in a manner that another individual would place some reliance on the Respondent to handle that individual's legal matters;
- g. advertising oneself as an immigration consultant, or being able to select and prepare immigration paperwork on behalf of others (without U.S.B.I.A. accreditation);
- h. making an appearance or speaking on behalf of another individual in negotiations, settlement conferences, mediations, hearings, trials, oral arguments or other legal proceedings unless specifically allowed by the rules that apply to such appearance in such legal proceeding;
- i. serving as a conduit or intermediary on behalf of any other individual for the obtaining or relaying of any legal counsel;
- j. conducting the business of management of a law practice to the extent that the exercise of legal judgment on behalf of another occurs; and
- k. soliciting or accepting any fees for legal services.

6. Respondent and Petitioner stipulate to the following facts and conclusion of law:

- a. T.S. is a former associate of Respondent's who lived in Weld County but is now deceased.

- b. T.S. was a party in a federal law suit because he allegedly promised to sell his home to two different people, one of which sued him in a case that ended up in federal court.
- c. Respondent graduated from Loveland High School and attended two different community colleges before ultimately earning a computer science degree from Colorado State University in Fort Collins.
- d. Respondent never attended law school.
- f. In late December 2019, a woman living with T.S. named M.H. asked Respondent if she would provide T.S. with legal assistance.
- g. Respondent agreed to provide legal services to T.S.
- h. On April 27, 2020, Respondent and T.S. signed a “General Contract for Services” prepared by Respondent to commemorate this arrangement.
- i. The document’s “description of services” was a mix of prospective work to be performed and work already performed that read as follows:

WILL PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES DIFFERENT LEGAL INVESTIGATION SERVICES 200.00 HOURLY CURRENTLY 40.5 HOURS OWED AT DIFFERENT RATES FEES ENCOURED 200.00 HOURS INVESTIGATION 26.5 INVESTIGATION WITH OTHER ATTORNEYS 5300.00 6.0 WITH ATTORNEY AT MY HOME RATE 250.00 TOTAL = 1500.00 BANK MEETING GETTING WAGES RELEASED MOVING MONEY 6.0 200.00 = 1200.00 MEETINGS WITH YOU FOR SIGNINGS FOR 1ST REPRESENT AND NOTORY MEETINGS 200.00 8.0 = 1600 MEETINGS ND TO GET ANSWER AND DISCOVERY 200.000 12=2400.00 REPRESENT WITH MAGRESTRE ON APRIL 22 IN DENVER 350.00 DRIVING TIME 65.00 X 2 = 12 = 830.00 MIGHT BE ADDITIONAL 1330.30 TOYAL TO DISCOVERY. [sic throughout]

- j. Before entering into the “General Contract for Services,” Respondent had filed a verified motion for protective order on April 9, 2020, in Larimer County against M.H.;

- k. After entering into the “General Contract for Services,” Respondent drafted on behalf of T.S. an answer to the plaintiff’s second amended complaint in the federal district court case.
- l. Respondent also generally advised and guided T.S. on what he needed to do in the federal law suit.
- m. Respondent engaged in the unauthorized practice of law by (a) acting as a representative in protecting, enforcing, and defending T.S.’s legal rights, (b) counseling, advising, and assisting T.S. in connection with legal rights and duties, (c) and drafting pleadings for T.S., including a motion for a protective order and an answer to a complaint.
- n. Respondent’s actions as described above do not fall within any of the case law or statutory exceptions that allow the practice of law by nonlawyers.

7. Pursuant to C.R.C.P. 251.32, Respondent agrees to pay administrative costs in the sum of \$224 incurred in conjunction with this matter within thirty (30) days after the acceptance of the stipulation by the Colorado Supreme Court.

8. The parties stipulate that a \$500 fine should be imposed pursuant to C.R.C.P. 236(a).

9. The unauthorized practice of law includes but is not limited to an unlicensed person’s actions as a representative in protecting, enforcing or defending the legal rights and duties of another and/or counseling, advising and assisting that person in connection with legal rights and duties. *See People v. Shell*, 148 P.3d 162, 171 (Colo. 2006); and *Denver Bar Ass’n. v. P.U.C.*, 154 Colo. 273, 279, 391 P.2d 467, 471 (1964). Prohibited activities involve the lay exercise of *legal discretion*, such as advice to clients regarding legal matters. *People v. Adams*, 243 P.3d 256, 266 (Colo. 2010).

10. As detailed above, Respondent acted as a representative in protecting, enforcing, and defending T.S.'s legal rights, and in counseling, advising, and assisting T.S. in connection with legal rights and duties. Respondent also drafted pleadings for T.S., including a motion for a protective order and an answer to a complaint.

11. Respondent's activities involved the lay exercise of legal discretion, specifically in providing the services above to T.S.

12. Respondent thereby engaged in the unauthorized practice of law.

WHEREFORE, the Petitioner and Respondent stipulate that this Court should issue an order recommending an injunction against Respondent prohibiting her from engaging in any unauthorized practice of law. Furthermore, Petitioner and Respondent stipulate that this Court should recommend that Respondent pay a fine of \$500 and pay the costs and expenses of these proceedings against Respondent.

DATED this 27th day of May, 2021.

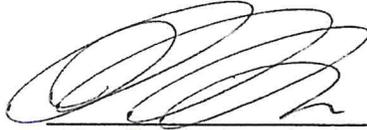
Respectfully submitted,

/s/ David Shaw

David Shaw, #40453
Assistant Regulation Counsel
Jessica E. Yates, #38003
Attorney Regulation Counsel
Attorneys for Complainant



R. Scott Reisch, #26892
Matthew A. Shultz, #45461
Robert F. LeVeen, #41774
The Reisch Law Firm, LLC
Attorneys for Respondent

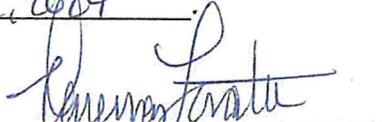


Michelle Wohlman Pardo, Respondent

STATE OF COLORADO)
) ss.
COUNTY OF Lincoln)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of June 2021, by Michelle Wohlman Pardo, Respondent, known to me. Witness my hand and official seal. My commission expires:

August 2, 2024



Notary Public