

*People v. Angelique Layton*. 13PDJo36. September 25, 2013. The Presiding Disciplinary Judge approved the parties' conditional admission of misconduct and suspended Angelique Layton (Attorney Registration Number 36480) from the practice of law for six months, all stayed pending completion of a three-year period of probation, with conditions. The probation takes effect October 30, 2013. Layton now appears to go by Angelique Layton Anderson. Layton represented a client in several legal matters but also hired the client to clean her house and to work on her political campaign. Layton planned to offset the money she owed her client for that work against the legal fees her client owed her, but Layton never specified the hourly rate the client would be credited for her work, nor did Layton communicate in writing the basis or rate of her legal fees. Layton thereby violated Colo. RPC 1.5(b). Layton also posted bond for the client and paid the client's rent and vehicle impound fees, which were not legitimate litigation expenses, contravening the conflict of interest limitations in Colo. RPC 1.8(e). Finally, Layton provided the client legal advice by filing the client's income taxes; she did so with the expectation that the client's tax refund would be applied to amounts the client owed her for posting bond. Layton's personal interest in obtaining the tax refund created a significant risk that this interest would materially influence her tax and general legal advice, and Layton did not obtain the client's informed consent in writing to the conflict of interest. This misconduct violated Colo. RPC 1.7.