

Colorado Supreme Court 2 East 14th Avenue Denver, CO 80203	DATE FILED: February 21, 2020 CASE NUMBER: 2019SA133
Original Proceeding in Discipline, 2018UPL56	
Petitioner: The People of the State of Colorado, v. Respondents: Aregawi Ghebrechristos and Colorado Injury Advocates, Inc., a Colorado corporation.	Supreme Court Case No: 2019SA133
ORDER OF INJUNCTION	

Upon consideration of the 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 Respondents, AREGAWI GHEBRECHRISTOS and Colorado INJURY ADVOCATES, INC. a Colorado corporation, shall be, and the same hereby are, ENJOINED from engaging in the Unauthorized Practice of Law in the State of Colorado.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that AREGAWI GHEBRECHRISTOS and Colorado INJURY ADVOCATES, INC. a Colorado corporation, pay a fine of \$250.00 and costs of \$889.00 (\$1,139.00 total), with \$380.00 due within thirty days of the date of this Courts order and the remaining \$379.00 due within sixty

days of the date of this Courts order. Said costs to be paid to the Office of Attorney
Regulation Counsel.

BY THE COURT, FEBRUARY 21, 2020

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:
AREGAWI GHEBRECHRISTOS and
COLORADO INJURY ADVOCATES, INC., a Colorado Corporation

Case Number:
19SA133

REPORT OF HEARING MASTER UNDER C.R.C.P. 236(a)

In this matter, the parties stipulate that Aregawi Ghebrechristos and Colorado Injury Advocates, a dissolved Colorado corporation, (collectively “Respondents”) engaged in the unauthorized practice of law and that payment of a fine and costs is appropriate. The Presiding Disciplinary Judge (“the PDJ”) agrees and recommends that the Colorado Supreme Court approve the stipulation.

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Bryon M. Large, Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel (“the People”), filed a “Petition for Injunction” against Respondents on July 9, 2019, alleging that they engaged in the unauthorized practice of law. The Colorado Supreme Court issued an “Order to Show Cause” on July 12, 2019, directing Respondents to show cause within twenty-one days why they should not be enjoined from the practice of law. Respondents did not respond to the petition or the order to show cause, and the Colorado Supreme Court referred the matter to the PDJ on September 16, 2019, for “findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations.” In early October 2019, Respondents filed a response with the PDJ.

The PDJ held a scheduling conference on October 21, 2019. Large appeared on behalf of the People, and Respondent Ghebrechristos appeared pro se. A hearing was set for February 19-21, 2020.

On January 13, 2020, the parties filed a “Stipulation, Agreement and Affidavit Containing Respondents’ Conditional Admission of Unauthorized Practice of Law.” In the stipulation, Respondents agree that they engaged in the practice of law. They also agree to be enjoined from the practice of law and to pay a fine and costs.

II. ORDER AND RECOMMENDATION

The PDJ **ACCEPTS** the parties' stipulation, **VACATES** the prehearing conference set for January 23, 2020, and **VACATES** the hearing set for February 19-21, 2020.

The PDJ **RECOMMENDS** that the Colorado Supreme Court take the following actions:

- (1) **APPROVE** the parties' stipulation;
- (2) **ENJOIN** Respondents from the unauthorized practice of law, including from the activities set forth in paragraph 6 of the stipulation; and
- (3) **ORDER** Respondent Ghebrechristos to pay a **FINE** of \$250.00 and **COSTS** of \$889.00 (\$1,139.00 total), with \$380.00 due on entry of the Colorado Supreme Court's order in this matter, another \$380.00 due within thirty days of the date of the Colorado Supreme Court's order, and the remaining \$379.00 due within sixty days of the date of the Colorado Supreme Court's order, in accordance with the terms set forth in paragraph 9 of the stipulation.

DATED THIS 15th DAY OF JANUARY, 2020.



WILLIAM R. LUCERO
PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE



Copies to:

Bryon M. Large
Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel

Via Email
b.large@csc.state.co.us

Aregawi Ghebrechristos
Colorado Injury Advocates, Inc.
Respondents
7603 East Jefferson Dr.
Denver, CO 80237

Via Email & First-Class Mail
802.ruba@gmail.com

Cheryl Stevens
Colorado Supreme Court

Via Hand Delivery

SUPREME COURT, STATE OF COLORADO

ORIGINAL PROCEEDING IN UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE
OF LAW BEFORE THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE
1300 Broadway, Suite 250
Denver, Colorado 80203

Petitioner:
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

Respondents:
AREGAWI GHEBRECHRISTOS and COLORADO INJURY
ADVOCATES, INC., a Colorado Corporation

Bryon M. Large, #38574
Assistant Regulation Counsel
Attorney for Petitioner
1300 Broadway, Suite 500
Denver, Colorado 80203

Telephone: (303) 928-7916
Fax No.: (303) 501-1141
Email: b.large@csc.state.co.us

FILED
JAN 16 2020

▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲

Case Number: 19SA133

**STIPULATION, AGREEMENT AND AFFIDAVIT CONTAINING
RESPONDENTS' CONDITIONAL ADMISSION OF UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE
OF LAW**

On this 13th day of January, 2020, Bryon M. Large, Assistant Regulation Counsel and attorney for the Petitioner, and Respondents Aregawi Ghebrechristos and Colorado Injury Advocates, Inc., a dissolved Colorado corporation, enter into the following Stipulation, Agreement, and Affidavit containing Respondent's Conditional Admission of Unauthorized Practice of Law ("Stipulation") and submit the same to the Hearing Master for his consideration.

RECOMMENDATION: Entry of an Order of Injunction, enjoining Respondents from further unauthorized practice of law, requiring the payment of a fine, and assessing costs, as discussed below.

1. Aregawi Ghebrechristos is not licensed as an attorney in the State of Colorado. Respondent Ghebrechristos is not otherwise authorized by federal or state law to engage in any practice of law. Respondent Ghebrechristos is the sole owner of Respondent Colorado Injury Advocates, Inc., a now-dissolved Colorado corporation ("CIA"). CIA does not and has not employed any attorneys authorized to practice law.

2. The Colorado Supreme Court has exclusive jurisdiction to determine what constitutes the unauthorized practice of law in Colorado. 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 Asso. v. Pub. Util. Comm'n*, 391 P.2d 467, 471-72 (Colo. 1964). In addition, preparation of legal documents for others by an unlicensed person, other than solely as a typist, is the unauthorized practice of law, unless the Colorado Supreme Court has authorized such action in a specific circumstance. *Title Guaranty Co. v. Denver Bar Assoc.*, 312 P.2d 1011, 1012 (1957).
3. Respondent Ghebrechristos understands that these restrictions exist, regardless of whether a fee is accepted for the services rendered and even if Respondent Ghebrechristos discloses that Respondent Ghebrechristos is not a Colorado attorney.
4. Respondents Ghebrechristos and CIA engaged in the unauthorized practice of law by giving legal advice to and negotiating settlement of a personal injury matter for Client M.F., and aided in the unauthorized practice of law in that matter by a disbarred attorney working under CIA's name.
5. Respondents Ghebrechristos and CIA engaged in the unauthorized practice of law by giving legal advice and negotiating settlement of personal injury matters for Client D.H., and aided in the unauthorized practice of law in that matter by a disbarred attorney working under CIA's name.
6. 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 documents 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", legal consultant, legal advocate, independent paralegal, or as a person or business capable of providing direct legal services to consumers, 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. 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;
 - h. conducting the business of management of a law practice to the extent that the exercise of legal judgment on behalf of another occurs; and
 - i. soliciting or accepting any fees for legal services.
7. As part of, and as a result of, Respondents' unauthorized practice of law, Respondent Ghebrechristos will pay costs in the sum of \$889 incurred in conjunction with this matter, made payable to Colorado Supreme Court Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel. A statement of costs is attached at Exhibit A.
8. Pursuant to C.R.C.P. 236(a), a minimum fine for each incident shall not be less than \$250 and not more than \$1,000. C.R.C.P. 236(a) further provides for exemption of a fine when parties stipulate to injunction. In consideration for resolving these matters, the Parties agree that the minimum fine of \$250 shall be imposed for one incident of unauthorized practice of law, and the fine shall be waived for the other incident of unauthorized practice of law. Respondent Ghebrechristos shall pay one fine of \$250.
9. Respondent Ghebrechristos's costs of \$889 plus a fine of \$250 total \$1,139. Respondent shall pay \$380 of this amount upon entry of an Order of Injunction. Respondent Ghebrechristos shall pay another \$380 within 30 days of entry of an Order of Injunction. Respondent Ghebrechristos shall pay the remaining \$379 within 60 days of entry of an Order of Injunction.
10. Respondents are familiar with the rules of the Colorado Supreme Court regarding the procedure for prosecution of the unauthorized practice of law and with the rights provided by those rules. Respondents acknowledge the right to a full and complete evidentiary hearing on the charges in the Petition for Injunction. At any such hearing, Respondents 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 by a preponderance of the evidence. Nonetheless, having full knowledge of the right to such a formal hearing, Respondents waive that right.
11. Respondents enter this Stipulation freely and voluntarily. No promises have been made concerning future consideration, punishment, or lenience in the above-referenced matter. It is Respondents' personal decision, and Respondents affirm there has been no coercion or other intimidating acts by any person or agency concerning this matter.

12. This Stipulation is premised and conditioned upon acceptance of the same by the Hearing Master, who will make recommendations to the Supreme Court. If for any reason the Stipulation is not accepted without changes or modification, then the admissions, confessions, and stipulations made by Respondents will be of no effect. Either party will have the opportunity to accept or reject any modification. If either party rejects the modification, then the parties shall be entitled to a full evidentiary hearing; and no confession, stipulation, or other statement made by Respondents in conjunction with this offer may be subsequently used. If the Stipulation is rejected, then the matter will be heard and considered pursuant to C.R.C.P. 235.
13. Based on the foregoing, the Parties hereto ask the Hearing Master to approve this stipulation and recommend to the Supreme Court that it enjoin Respondent from further unauthorized practice of law, that it assess Respondent costs of \$889, and that it assess a fine in the amount of \$250.
14. Respondent Aregawi Ghebrechristos and Respondent Colorado Injury Advocates, Inc., a dissolved Colorado corporation, and Bryon M. Large, attorney for Petitioner, acknowledge by signing this document that they have read and reviewed the above and request the Hearing Master to recommend that the Supreme Court accept the terms of the Stipulation as set forth above.

Respectfully submitted this 13th of January, 2020.

Aregawi Ghebrechristos
 Aregawi Ghebrechristos, individually and on
 behalf of the Colorado Injury Advocates, Inc.
 Address: 7603 E. Jefferson Dr.
 Respondent Denver, CO 80237

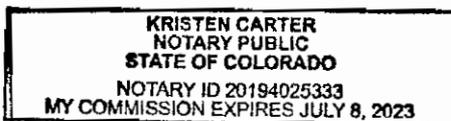
STATE OF COLORADO)
)ss:
 COUNTY OF Arapahoe)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13th day of January, 2020, by Aregawi Ghebrechristos, the Respondent.

Witness my hand and official seal.

My commission expires:

07/08/2023



Kristen Carter
 Notary Public



Bryon M. Large, #38574
Assistant Regulation Counsel
Attorney for Petitioner

Statement of Costs

**Aregawi Ghebrechristos
19SA133, 18UPL56, 19UPL35**

5/29/2019	Checkmate, Invoice 3290194	\$	205.00
6/27/2019	Javernick & Stenstromm, LLC INV 21457	\$	200.00
12/3/2019	Javernick & Stenstromm, LLC INV 21685	\$	260.00
12/27/2019	Administrative Fee	\$	224.00
			<hr/>
	AMOUNT DUE	\$	889.00



Checkmate, Inc. (EIN #35-2628744)
 8480 East Orchard Road, Suite 5700
 Greenwood Village, CO 80111-5028

INVOICE: 3290194
 Issued: May 24, 2019

Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel
 Valencia Hill-Wilson
 1300 Broadway, Suite 500
 Denver, CO 80203

PAY TO:
 Checkmate, Inc. (EIN #35-2628744)
 8480 East Orchard Road, Suite 5700
 Greenwood Village, CO 80111-5028

Case: 18UPL56	Plaintiff / Petitioner: PETITIONER: THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO
Job: 3290194 (18UPL56)	Defendant / Respondent: RESPONDENTS: AREGAWI GHEBRECHRISTOS and COLORADO INJURY ADVOCATES, INC.

Item	Description	Cost	Quantity	Total
SFD	Service Fee - Denver Metro	\$55.00	1	\$55.00
SURV	Surveillance - Per Hour	\$75.00	2	\$150.00
	Service on: Aregawi Ghebrechristos	\$0.00	1	\$0.00

Terms: Net 15 days	Total: \$205.00
Please reference the Invoice number on all payments	Amount Paid: (\$0.00)
Thank you and we appreciate your business!	Balance Due: \$205.00
LATE FEES WILL APPLY TO PAST DUE BALANCES OF 10% OR \$20, WHICHEVER GREATER	

Checkmate, Inc. (EIN #35-2628744) • 8480 East Orchard Road, Suite 5700, Greenwood Village, CO 80111-5028

Call: 303-778-7630 • Fax: 303-778-1310 • Email: info@checkmateinc.com • Visit: www.checkmateinc.com

*5/28
 okay to pay
 JST*

PAID
 5/28/19



J A V E R N I C K
 & S T E N S T R O M, L L C
certified shorthand reporters

3131 South Vaughn Way, Suite 224
 Aurora, Colorado 80014
 (720) 449-0329 FEIN 84-1566167

INVOICE

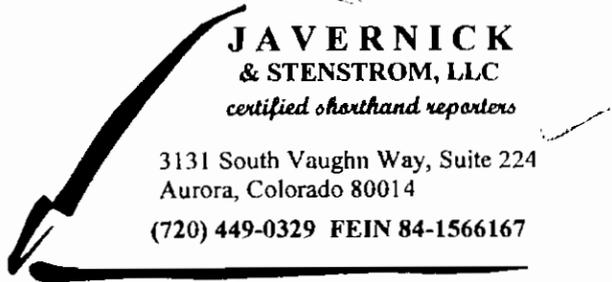
DATE	INVOICE #
6/19/2019	21457

BILL TO:
KIM E. IKELER, ESQ. Office of Attorney Regulation 1300 Broadway Suite 500 Denver, Colorado 80203

RE:
People v. Aregawi Ghebrechristos, et al. Supreme Court, State of Colorado Investigation Conducted by Attorney Regulation Counsel Case No. 18UPL56

DUE DATE	REPORTER	SHIP DATE	SHIP VIA
7/19/2019	LH	6/19/2019	

QUANTITY	ITEM	DESCRIPTION	RATE	AMOUNT
1	NS	Deposition of AREGAWI GHERBRECHRISTOS No Show/Late Cancellation May 31, 2019 <i>G/20 okay to pay</i> 	200.00	200.00
Interest will be charged at the rate of 1.5% per month on any amount not paid within 30 days.			Total	\$200.00



**JAVERNICK
& STENSTROM, LLC**
certified shorthand reporters

3131 South Vaughn Way, Suite 224
Aurora, Colorado 80014
(720) 449-0329 FEIN 84-1566167

INVOICE

*OK to pay
EJ
12/3/19*

DATE	INVOICE #
12/3/2019	21685

BILL TO:
BRYON M. LARGE, ESQ. Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel 1300 Broadway Suite 500 Denver, Colorado 80203

RE:
People v. Aregawi Ghebrechristos Supreme Court, State of Colorado Original Proceeding in Unauthorized Practice of Law Before the ARC Case No. 19SA133

DUE DATE	REPORTER	SHIP DATE	SHIP VIA
1/3/2019	EJ	12/3/2019	

QUANTITY	ITEM	DESCRIPTION	RATE	AMOUNT
1	AF- NO	Deposition of AREGAWI GHEBRECHRISTOS Appearance Fee Transcript Not Ordered November 25, 2019	200.00	200.00
1	NO-Hours	Transcript Not Ordered Hours	60.00	60.00

REGU/TRLS/1935 CRTR

Interest will be charged at the rate of 1.5% per month on any amount not paid within 30 days.	Total	\$260.00
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